

THE JOURNAL

• July 22, 1999 • 50 cents (tax included)

Feature Claremont an East Bay treasure, and so is Al Henderson [A15]

Sports At 48, Jimi James still playing baseball... and music [B1]

City has a plan

Well, just about—
final approved
of General Plan
expected Aug. 30

By J. R. Deaton

EL CERRITO—The city has a new General Plan... almost.

After a year and a half of meetings, workshops and public hearings, and a spring "vision festival," the City Council voted 4-1 this week to approve the new General Plan and certify the attending environmental impact report.

There were some relatively minor changes made in the proposed document, and final adoption of the new General Plan is expected at the City Council's Aug. 30 meeting. Traffic concerns continued to be a major bone of contention. Councilman Larry Damon was the dissenting vote on the council; he wanted more attention to traffic and open space issues.

"For the most part, we have a plan that preserves the essential character of our community which a very strong consensus of citizens opted for in all the community hearings," said Councilman Mark Friedman before last Monday's vote.

Members of the public had expressed concerns about traffic projections in the draft plan and Friedman acknowledged their comments, saying "it's clear that traffic will get worse." He said things such as light rail service along San Pablo Avenue, longer AC Transit hours of operation and BART extension to Hilltop in Richmond could help the traffic situation

See EC COUNCIL, Page A10



PROJECT VOLUNTEER Mike Russell is one of the dedicated members of the Pacific Locomotive Association who have spent the last six years fixing up Southern Pacific Lines 1921 steam engine No. 2467.

It's the big engine that could

And thanks to hard work of volunteers, it did make it to Railfair

By J. R. Deaton

OAKLAND—If the size of your toys is the measure of your success, then members of the Pacific Locomotive Association's Project 2467 are some of the most successful folks around.

East Bay PLA members have been painting and spot-welding and fussing over and fixing up Southern Pacific Lines 1921 steam engine No. 2467 for the past six years.

Last month, a steam crew highballed No. 2467 up to Sacramento for the California State Railroad Museum's Railfair '99 festival. The old locomotive was a big hit with steam engine enthusiasts and other fair-goers.

Actually, average speed to Sacramento was about 40 mph, but on the return trip engineer Errol Ohman took it up to 60 mph. It was the first time in 43 years that the locomotive had been out on a main line railroad track. Most days No. 2467 sits on rusting tracks in northwest Oakland, surrounded by freeway interchanges and Army properties. Most weekends four or five guys show up and spend hours doing whatever needs to be done to keep No. 2467 up and running.

"This is my life," joked 22-year-old volunteer Brian Wilson of El Cerrito during a recent tour of the train.

"I was in high school and I knew about this being down here, and I came down here and started taking pictures of it and just kind of hanging out," Wilson said, explaining how he got started on Project 2467. "The guys here just told me to start bringing my work clothes, and here I've been ever since."

Wilson said he comes out most weekends to work on the engine, "welding, painting, grinding." Wilson said he has a new girlfriend and will probably cut down his hours with the project, but it's clear No. 2467 holds a special place in

See ENGINE, Page A12

Conference will unearth history of shellmounds

By James Carter

Native-American shellmounds, what many have described as the Bay Area's oldest cultural resource, will be the object of intense discussion at a conference held this Sunday.

It is estimated there are 425 shellmounds around the shores of the San Francisco Bay. Berkeley is home to a very large one located beneath and near the Spenger's Restaurant parking lot.

Another smaller yet significant shellmound drew controversy last year when it was uncovered in Albany during a sewer project by the City of Berkeley.

During the one-day conference, archaeologists, writers, Native-Americans and historians will share information about shellmounds and the people who built them, many of who lived and raised families 5,000 years ago.

Hosted by Malcolm Margolin, author of the landmark book, "The Ohlone Way," the conference will feature presentations by Ken Lightfoot, professor of anthro-

pology at UC-Berkeley, Larry Myers of the Native American Heritage Commission, and other archaeologists, historians, and geologists.

According to Stephanie Manning, event coordinator, the mounds—including one in Emeryville—were once of immense size. Old photographs reveal shellmounds the size of hills and many are thought to be 60 feet deep.

Though many of the mounds have been damaged, the deepest—and oldest—may contain remains that date back to 3500 BC.

A study done in 1890 of a section of the west Berkeley shellmound unearthed the remains of 92 Native-Americans, Manning said. Also, ornaments, tools and other artifacts were discovered there. All are now in storage at the Hearst Museum at UC-Berkeley, according to Manning.

A shellmound in Emeryville, the object of controversy due to plans to develop the area, is one of the most important mounds in the Bay Area, Manning said.

"You can't see it now because it was bulldozed in 1924," she said, "but there is still a rich mine of shellmound material beneath the surface."

According to Manning, a community organizer in west Berkeley for over 15 years and a member of the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association, 14 borings were recently done at the west Berkeley shellmound just beside

See SHELLMOUND, Page A9



KITES WILL BE flying high at the 14th annual Berkeley Kite Festival.

Oh, go fly a kite

And they'll be doing just that at Berkeley festival

By Danielle Samaniego

Kites will fly high in the sky and the day will allow the public to play as Berkeley hosts the 14th annual Berkeley Kite Festival and West Coast Kite Championships on July 24-25 at Berkeley marina's Cesar E. Chavez Park.

"What else can I tell you? It's a blast," said Tom McAlister, kite festival coordinator.

Thousands of kites will be on hand, but these are not the run-of-the-mill kites of yesteryear. Many kites are reminiscent of the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade balloons, a sort of cross between a sail and a parachute.

As the kite is unraveled, it is positioned to the flow of the wind. A stake has already been hammered into the grass of the hilltop to hold the hovering display in place. Suddenly the breeze picks up just right, transforming the wadded nylon that inflates in the park's ever-present wind into a wondrously vibrant figure that now soars through a floating, aquamarine sky.

The festival displays all sorts of air-

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WORTH CHECKING OUT

Talk on dyslexia

Dr. Russell Poldrack, a neuroscientist who is an expert researcher on children's dyslexia, will speak at the Center for Psychological Studies on Wednesday, July 21. A reception, starting at 6:30 p.m., will be held for Poldrack before his talk, and questions will be welcomed following the presentation. Poldrack will review differences in brain structure and function as it relates to reading ability and suggest successful intervention techniques. He has made over 50 presentations and publications on learning and language. The Center for Psychological Studies is a post-master's doctoral program featuring small classes and individualized programs. It is located at 1398 Solano Ave. in Albany, just next to Berkeley. For reservations for Poldrack's talk, or for more information about CPS, call 524-0291. There is no fee, but reservations are required.

Preschool yard sale

Over two dozen families have cleaned out their closets and garages to create a huge yard sale to raise funds to buy educational equipment for their preschool. The yard sale will be held on Saturday, Aug. 7, at Rainbow Hill Preschool from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. located at 7075 Cutting Blvd., two blocks south of Arlington Boulevard in El Cerrito. A variety of furniture, clothing, and toys for infants, toddlers and young children will be featured at the sale. Families with children who typically outgrow their clothes and shoes every couple of months will find many bargains and choices. Parents and grandparents of the preschool have volunteered many hours to help make the yard sale a success in order to bring more educational play equipment into the school. Rainbow Hill Preschool has been providing fun and challenging learning and care to pre-kindergarten youngsters in the El Cerrito and Richmond communities since 1996. The ethnically and socially diverse staff and students reflect the cultural richness of the neighborhoods that the school serves. The preschool focuses on building self-esteem and independence while developing creative thinking skills. Details: 237-8916.

Board of Education seeks members

Citizens of Albany are encouraged to apply for the vacancies of Board of Education representative to the City of Albany Park and Recreation Commission. A letter of interest form must be submitted to the Board of Education, Albany Unified School District, 904 Talbot Ave., Albany, CA 94706, no later than Friday, Aug. 6. The Board of Education plans to appoint the representative at its

meeting of Tuesday, Aug. 17.

Watercolor exhibition

El Cerrito artists will participate in "watercolor California '99" an exhibition of more than 200 paintings by 12 award winning artists, Aug. 7-29. On display in the Exhibit Hall at Jack London Village, Alice Street and the Embarcadero, across from the Amtrak Station on Oakland's historic waterfront. Open to the public daily 11 a.m.-5 p.m. A reception to meet the artists will be held on Sunday, Aug. 8, 1-4 p.m. For more information call 234-5028 or 782-1948.

Greenway/Creek Walk

Berkeley Path Wanderers leads a walk on the Ohlone Greenway and lower Codornices Creek on Saturday, July 24. Explore history and possibilities, from the Santa Fe Railroad to pioneer integration efforts to today's art-filled community gardens, creek restoration, and future trails. The walk is level, but some footing may be tricky. Meet at 10 a.m., Saturday, July 24, at the north side of the Berkeley BART Station. Details: 524-0713 or 848-9358

Acrylics and watercolors

"Painting Myself," an exhibit of paintings by Christine Curtis using acrylics on paper will be exhibited through Aug. 31 at the Gallery of the Center for Psychological Studies. Curtis, who is also a lawyer, uses a process of automatic painting similar to that used by the early surrealists. Her paintings are on display each weekday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., excepting noon to 1 p.m., at the Gallery for the Center for Psychological Studies, located at 1398 Solano Ave. in Albany. Also on exhibit is "Dream Imagery," an exhibit of prints of watercolors by Jon Larsen through July 31. Details: 524-0291.

Weed Warriors Wanted

Keep spiny, invasive yellow star thistle out of the new East Shore State Park. Help Weed Warriors of the East Bay pull out these pest plants, Tuesdays and Thursdays 6-8 p.m. Meet at Marina Blvd. just north of University Avenue (opposite the Berkeley Marina). Wear long pants; bring work gloves if you have them. Dogs are welcome. For information call Virginia Harrison, 510-237-5287, or e-mail susanschwab@aol.com.

Shellmound conference

Our community is home to two historically significant shellmound sites: the Emeryville Mound at the foot of Powell Street and the West Berkeley Mound at the foot of University Avenue. The

Emeryville and West Berkeley shellmounds, although now greatly damaged, were once of immense size - nearly 30 feet deep and 300 feet long. Built up from ashes, shells, animal bones, artifacts, and human remains, they remind us that the East Bay has been home to people for thousands of years. On Saturday, July 25, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Mountain Light Photography (1466 66th St.) in Emeryville, the Berkeley Architectural Heritage Association, News from Native California and the University of California Archaeological Research Facility will collaborate in a conference to explore the archaeological, scientific, historic, cultural, and spiritual values of these two shellmounds from a number of perspectives. Members of the community are invited to join in the discussion; a forum will follow on how these sites might be managed in the future. All events are open to the public, there is a suggested donation fee.

AUSD summer hours

Summer hours for the Albany Unified School District Administrative Office, 504 Talbot Ave., will be 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, effective through Aug. 13.

Preschool open house

Skytown Preschool is hosting an open house and barbecue on Saturday, July 31, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Families interested in Skytown's toddler program (ages 18 months to 3 years) or preschool program (ages 3 to 5 years) are welcome to come and meet Skytown's staff and families. Skytown is located at 1 Lawson Road, off Arlington Blvd. in Kensington. Details: 526-8485.

"Mask"erade

The public is invited to view the current exhibit at the Gallery Showcase located at the Albany Community Center Library Complex, 1249 Marin Ave., in the Albany Recreation and Community Service Department Office. The current show is entitled "Welcome Back. A Recycled Art Mask-erade." Artist Victoria Chow Pearson is again displaying paper, this time in the form of masks using recycled boxes. The show will be up through July 26, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Melandry photo exhibit

Renowned local photographer Don Melandry is having an exhibit of color photographs at The Berkeley Travel Company, 1301 California St. (near the corner with Hopkins Street) in Berkeley. The title of the exhibit is "Meditations on Leaves and Trees." The show runs through the end of August. Details: 510-526-5130.

Woman uses sister's name after accident — warrant issued for her arrest

EL CERRITO — At 6 p.m., July 28, a 21-year-old woman used her sister's name when questioned by police about her involvement in a traffic accident on the 1800 block of Lincoln Avenue. Apparently the young woman, already anxious after the collision, was not encouraged by news of a warrant for her sister's arrest.

■ Sometime between July 7 and July 8, a thief stole an air compressor from an unlocked camper shell on the 800 block of Balra Drive.

■ Near noon July 8, a thief stole a bicycle parked at a bike rack on the 11400 block of San Pablo Avenue.

■ A 44-year-old man summoned a police officer on patrol the evening of July 10, advising him of a downed bicyclist who apparently had an accident on San Pablo Avenue. When police arrived, the cyclist lay on top of his bike but was apparently fit enough to blow up a balloon revealing his machine was propelled in part by alcohol — .214 percent, in

fact. He was arrested for disorderly conduct and public intoxication.

■ At 9:34 p.m., July 12, a 47-year-old man flagged down officers near the corner of San Pablo and Cypress Avenue. The distraught man told police people were harassing him without mercy, his lips and breath offering proof. He was arrested for public intoxication, a victim of his own vice.

■ Sometime between July 12 and July 13, a burglar hurled a sparkplug through the window of a car parked on the 1400 block of Arlington Boulevard, rifled through the glove box, uncovering \$13 in change before fleeing.

■ A thief shattered the wing window of a car parked on the 7000 block of Terrace Drive, reached inside, unlocked the door and searched for loot sometime between July 12 and 13. The crook got away with \$2.50, and the automobile's owner is stuck with a \$90 bill to replace the busted window.

■ Two 10-year-old boys sneaked

POLICE REPORT

through a "secure" liquor store on the 1200 block of San Pablo Avenue just before 13. They stole \$60 before making a getaway on the garage on the 500 block of San Pablo Avenue the afternoon and ripped off a VCR inside.

■ A 25-year-old man was chased July 13. The man made in a 1989 Dodge end near Cutting and Boulevard where officers speedster and arrested him for attempting to evade police.

■ On the evening of July 13, an incident on the 1000 block of avenue reported that the woman's blue GT Mustang from an open garage. They witnesses.

■ On the morning of July 13, a resident on the 1100 block of mouth Street reported that the night thieves stole a car from her green '93 Toyota, which was parked in the driveway. There were no witnesses.

■ During the week of July 13, many officers towed cars that responded to 19 false alarms to one deceased animal, and people who were locked out of house or car and reported reports of barking dogs.

■ In the domestic arena, responded to 29 reports of disturbances and 48 civil assault officers stopped 42 vehicles, 24 citations and 18 warrants. Albany firefighters responded to two fire calls and medical emergencies.

Three arrested after refusing to move

By K. Osborn

ALBANY — At about 1 a.m. on July 12, Albany officers stopped a white '83 Toyota Corolla for a vehicle code violation. The driver, a 22-year-old Richmond man, appeared to be intoxicated. He failed the Field Sobriety Test with a score of .09/.09. He was also found to be unlicensed. He was arrested and cited to be released when sober. Three passengers in the car, all men from Richmond ages 20, 22 and 23, were told to "be on their way" but refused to leave their friend. The three were subsequently arrested for obstruction and delay, cited and released with a Notice to Appear.

■ On the morning of July 12, a resident on the 1000 block of Ventura Street reported that during the night thieves stole a silver, 12-speed Univega bike, with chrome fenders, from his driveway. There were no witnesses.

■ On the afternoon of July 12, a resident on the 1100 block of Ord-

way Street reported that thieves stole all four hubcaps from his white '91 Nissan. There were no witnesses.

■ At about 11:30 p.m. on July 14, Albany officers investigated a beige and rust colored '65 International van out near the landfill. The occupant of the van, a 46-year-old Emeryville man, was found to be a California Department of Corrections parolee with a "No Bail" warrant. He was arrested with out incident and transported to the Berkeley jail to wait for transfer to the Santa Rita jail.

■ On the afternoon of July 15, a Richmond man reported that during the night thieves stole his silver '86 Ford Bronco from the 900 block of Talbot Street. There were no witnesses.

■ At about 1:45 a.m. on July 16, Albany officers investigated a white '83 Chevrolet pickup parked on Eastshore Highway with two people inside. The occupants, two Oakland men ages 35 and 43, were arrested for trespassing. They were cited and released with a Notice to Appear.

EL CERRITO IN BRIEF

Art on display

Pastel drawings of clouds and El Cerrito curbs by Trudy Vilaska are on display at the El Cerrito Library through Sept. 15.

Vilaska, a retired Albany school teacher, holds a degree in fine arts from Skidmore College. She has worked for the Metropolitan Museum of Art, art-supplies manufacturer Binney & Smith Inc. and Lever Brothers Company. The artist's works are in private collections and in galleries in this country and Japan.

The El Cerrito Library, located at 6510 Stockton Ave., is open Monday noon-8 p.m.; Tuesday 1-6 p.m.; Thursday 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Friday and Saturday 1-5 p.m. It is closed Wednesday, Sunday and holidays.

Hornblower Ball coming

The Bay Area English Regency Society presents the "Hornblower Ball" on Saturday, Aug. 28, at the Arlington Community Center, 52 Arlington Ave. in Kensington. The society will recreate a party aboard a British fighting frigate during the Napoleonic Wars.

Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and dancing will begin at 8 p.m. Costumed guests, refreshments, nautical songs,

toasts and period card games will add to the enjoyment. Lady Hamilton has promised to entertain Capt. Hornblower's guests with her famous "Attitudes!"

The event is being co-sponsored by the Greater Bay Area Costumers' Guild, the Napoleonic Alliance, the Sharpe Appreciation Society and Brigade Napoleon.

Tickets are \$14 in advance, \$16 at the door. Costumes and dance partners are not required.

For information, call 1-415-931-5775.

Swim center workshop

There will be a swim center community design workshop at the Community Center at 7007 Moers Lane 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, July 31.

People are urged to attend and share their ideas concerning the coming renovation or reconstruction of the swim center.

"People should come to make sure that their viewpoints are represented," said Community Services Manager Monica Kortz. "Is it better to reconstruct than it is to renovate—or is it better to renovate than reconstruct?"

"People who are of strong opinion that they would just like to see what's there remain there, should be there—and those who have a vision

for what they would like to see in the future, should be there," Kortz said. "We want to make sure everybody is heard."

A design consultant hired by the city has made an assessment of the swim center and will be available at the workshop.

Four file nomination papers

As of last Tuesday, four people had received nomination papers to run for City Council this fall.

Planning Commissioner Letitia Moore, a member of the General Plan Process Team, has filed papers

which, according to City Clerk Linda Giddings, have been forwarded to the county election office.

The three who have received nomination papers, but have not yet filed are: Janet Abelson of the Planning Commission, Kathleen J. Perka of the General Plan Process Team and Robert S. Walker.

Two three-year seats on the council will be filled in the Nov. 2 election. The deadline to file nomination papers is Aug. 11.

Veteran's Memorial update

Progress continues on the El Cer-

rito Veterans Memorial, which backers hope to complete by Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 1999. It will be located in the civic gardens on the north side of City Hall.

A ground-breaking ceremony for the memorial took place last May.

This month the irrigation system there will be relocated to accommodate construction and landscaping. In August, existing concrete walkways and shrubs will be replaced with new walkways and footings for a new flagpole. Concrete work will continue through September, and in October the new flagpole, lighting,

benches and memorial plaques will be installed.

A dedication ceremony is planned for Nov. 11.

Please recycle this newspaper

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The Journal

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EDITORIAL

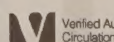
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email: journal@comcast.net
fax.....(510) 339-6777
Voice Mail.....(510) 339-6777
Editor - Chris Treadway.....(510) 339-6777
email: ctreadway@comcast.net
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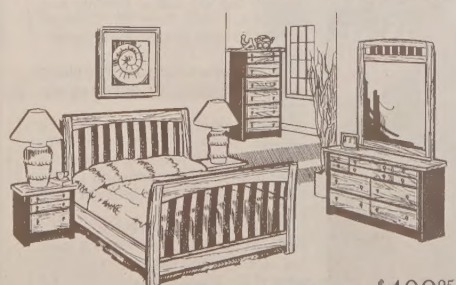
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CITY OF BERKELEY

Data Collection Study to Daylight Strawberry Creek in the Downtown Area

City staff and Wolfe Mason Associates Landscape Architects/Environmental Scientists will host an open house to present the findings of the recently completed Data Collection Study to Daylight Strawberry Creek in the Downtown Area.

The purpose of this study is to provide a logical framework within which to evaluate the options for daylighting Strawberry Creek in the Downtown Area.

Please stop by and take a look at the study. The authors will be available to answer your questions.

OPEN HOUSE:
Thursday, July 29, 1999, 5-8 p.m.
North Berkeley Senior Center
1901 Hearst Avenue, Berkeley

Copies of the study are available at the Berkeley Public Library. For additional information, please contact Deborah Chernin, City of Berkeley Office of Capital Projects (510) 665-7554, dec2@ci.berkeley.ca.us. TDD (510) 644-6915

Leandro Duran—Brown Beret to Supreme Court

Local attorney takes battle against injustice to courtroom

By James Carter

Leandro Duran belongs on a horse, bandoleers wrapped around his shoulders, a sombrero hanging from a string behind his back, handguns on both hips—a loyal son of Pancho Villa.

Duran is a fighter, and is not afraid to take on giants. But his battles are not fought on the countryside, nor on the streets. He is an attorney. Duran wears a suit and battles what he considers injustice in the courtroom.

Born in Acámbaro, between Mexico City and Guadalajara in Mexico, Duran moved to Berkeley when he was 8 months old. But he'd return to Mexico for a year when he was in first grade. The family suffered through tough times for a year.

"Something happened," Duran said. He soon returned to the United States.

Duran is a Chicano, a former member of the Brown Beret. Yet he was just a kid when people were in the streets during the '60s.

One incident stands out in his mind about that period that occurred while fishing with his father, Balduino. Duran was in grade school at the time.

"I remember something serious was happening because these guys were wearing green fatigues, and had green tents," he said. "It looked like a military occupation."

Yet the scene didn't bother Duran, or at least it didn't scare him.

"I remember when I was around 13 going to Cal to check out the campus and there was tear gas everywhere. I got a good whiff of it. And frankly speaking, I was proud of Berkeley and what people were do-

ing. They were standing up for what they believed in. And I thought to myself, 'I want to go to school here.'"

While Duran attended King Junior High School, he was elected president of the Chicano Student Union. He organized a walkout demanding Spanish-speaking counselors.

"We needed them," he said. "We needed someone who could explain to us the right courses to take so we could go to college."

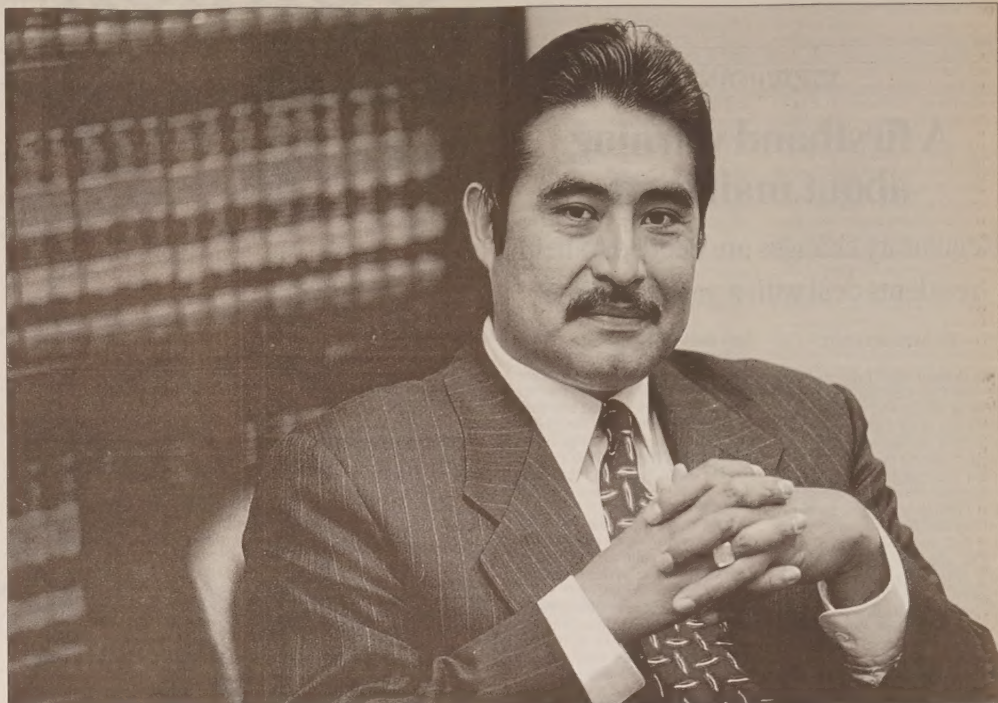
The protest worked, and bilingual counselors were hired, including a member of the Brown Beret. It was 1969.

The future attorney was admitted to Cal and graduated in 1978. Yet like many young people at that time, his education included more than classroom assignments and lectures. He wanted to be part of La Causa.

Duran would be active in the Third World Caucus and the April Coalition, and would work for former Congressman Ron Dellums. He spent time at La Paz with the United Farm Workers Union, worked a year for the Oakland Citizens Committee for Urban Renewal doing recycling. Then Duran went to Hastings College of the Law at UC-Berkeley.

His mother, Manuela, worked in a tortilla factory in Richmond, then called Mission Foods. The company cut wages and benefits to workers there, Duran said, so the workers went on strike. His mother asked him to help.

The strike was a long one. Cesar Chavez and many others came to help. But after a long and bitter struggle, many workers were forced to find other jobs, including Duran's mother. Those that remained, settled for a compromise.



LOCAL ATTORNEY Leandro Duran is a fighter, and takes his fight against injustice into the courtroom.

JOANNA JHANDA

"We gave it the best that we could," Duran said. "That struggle gave me the motivation to study and pass the State Bar. I wanted to help people get empowered."

Duran passed the bar exam in

1986, and set up practice in Richmond.

"I had good clients, many of them people I represented for free during unemployment insurance appeals," he said. "I was lucky and did quite

well until I started to get involved with environmental actions involving a major oil company. That was a different ballgame."

Duran said fighting toxic wastes issues in Contra Costa County is "playing on a different field."

"You're out in court, up against this entity, and there's a whole credibility issue," he said. "And if you are a la raza lawyer like I am, credibility is going to be an issue anyway."

Duran got pretty beat up by litigation against oil firms. He said dealing on their turf, an attorney needs "experts and all kinds of financing. It can really wear you down."

After four years of bitter disappointment, Duran took on a case that would change everything, one that went all the way to the Supreme Court. It was called "Vann vs. Travelers," a case where an insurance

company refused to honor a policy purchased by a businessman. After five years, Vann was awarded \$30 million by the courts.

The young attorney set aside part of the settlement he was due and formed a foundation, one with a goal of providing scholarships and support for young people seeking education.

Currently, the Duran Foundation is conducting interviews with young people seeking higher education.

"We hope to award at least \$30,000 in scholarships to students," Duran said. The foundation also provides grants for educational and cultural programs.

"We're here to support the community and are motivated by the same spirit that moved people in the '60s and '70s," he said. "We want to make a difference."

BART board releases draft of 10-year plans

The BART board of directors released a draft Fiscal Year 2000 Short Range Transit Plan and Capital Improvement Program for public review.

The documents, which are required by the Federal Transit Administration and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, provide

an analysis of operating and capital funding needs, priorities and funding strategies for the next decade.

The plan is an overview of the organization and facilities, as well as rail service. It also shows BART's financial capacity to provide service for future ridership growth. Key features include the plan's estimated

of four new stations as the system extends to Millbrae and San Francisco International Airport.

The capital program provides detailed project descriptions, status and highlights, and potential funding sources.

Improvement projects include a car-renovation effort to refurbish

two-thirds of the district's fleet and an Automatic Fare Collection Equipment Modernization/Translink Implementation, to update ticket-vending machines and prepare them for "smart card" technology.

Public comment on the drafts will be heard at the board's regular meeting on July 22.

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Opinion

VIEWPOINT

A firsthand warning about mail theft

Regulatory changes are needed to help residents deal with a growing crime

By Michael Fretz

In October 1997, I received a letter from First USA Bank requesting proof of my current address and a photocopy of my social security card to process my recent application. I began to suspect that a pre-approved credit card application had been stolen from my mailbox and sent in with a change of address. So started my long and difficult experience with mail theft and credit fraud.

This article recounts my experience with the rapidly increasing problem of "identity theft" and recommends changes to laws and policies that heap insult onto the injury suffered by the victims of this crime.

While we live in a country where nearly every measure of violent crime is decreasing, this other, more subtle invasion of our personal lives is on the rise (for FBI crime statistics see the latest FBI Uniform Crime Report, for identity theft statistics see the U.S. Postal Inspection Service's Law Enforcement Report titled, "Identity Theft: Stealing your name and your money"). Debbi Baer of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, in the above referenced report, describes some of the methods used by identity thieves.

"(They) may use a variety of tactics to drain your finances: posing as a loan officer and ordering your credit report (which lists account numbers); 'shoulder surfing' at the ATM or phone booth to get your PIN code; 'dumpster diving' in trash bins for unshredded credit applications, canceled checks or other bank records; or... notifying the Postal Service to redirect your mail to the address of choice, such as a mail drop, which allows anonymity."

In my case, it started with mail being stolen from my home in El Cerrito.

I was concerned enough about the letter from First USA Bank that I returned it, stating that I had not applied for one of their credit cards. I asked that they not issue a card in my name and that they send me a copy of the original application.

I also went to the El Cerrito post office to see what could be done to safeguard my mail. The clerk suggested that I fill out a customer complaint form, describing what had happened, and someone would get back to me.

I thought I was handling the situation responsibly— notifying the people involved and waiting for them to respond. Unfortunately, I did not keep my copy of the postal complaint form, nor did I follow-up on the letter to First USA Bank. These two mistakes caused me endless grief in the months to come.

Some time passed and I did not hear back from the post office or the bank. In the meantime, someone continued to go through my mailbox while I was at work. I later realized that mail was being removed selectively, so it was not easy to detect.

The real problems started when I received my credit card statement after Christmas. I could not believe the amount due on my account— I thought I had stayed within my Christmas budget. The problem was not my spending, but rather that someone had obtained "convenience checks" drawn against my credit card and cashed them for over \$7,000!

I learned later that the bank issuing my credit card thought I might like a few checks to use during the holidays, in case a merchant did not take credit cards. Unfortunately, my bank did not warn me that checks were sent and they went completely unnoticed when stolen from my mailbox.

The checks were laundered through fraudulent bank accounts in Northern and Southern California. I later obtained copies of the checks from my bank. The criminals involved did a poor job of copying my signature. They were cashed despite the obvious forgeries.

I was very concerned. I knew my bank could not hold me responsible for the unauthorized charges if I cooperated with them. I called them

right away.

It was at this point that I started taking the situation more seriously. I went back to the El Cerrito post office and told a clerk what had happened. She told me to report the incidents to the local police department and to fill out PS Form 1510. I called the El Cerrito Police and they said they would send someone to my house later that day.

I sat down to fill out PS Form 1510. After reading over the form, it seemed to relate to mail that went undelivered. Was this really the form I was supposed to complete?

Later that evening, Officer Perez paid me a visit. He listened intently while I explained about all the letters I thought were missing, the fraudulent credit card application, the stolen checks, and my recent return trip to the post office. When I was done, he told me he could not fill out a police report—they had recently stopped taking complaints about mail theft. He said that many people had been calling his department about their problems with mail delivery, but there was nothing they could do. They did not have jurisdiction.

After Perez left, I called the police department again—I could not believe what I had heard. I spoke with the night watch commander. He repeated what Perez told me. I apparently needed to take my problems elsewhere. He suggested that I contact the postal inspector, which I did the next day.

Later that week, I went back to the post office to complain about all of their bad advice. This time I asked to speak with a supervisor. After waiting a few minutes, I spoke with Velma Davis, supervisor for customer services at the El Cerrito post office.

I showed her the form I picked up earlier that week and told her about my experience with the El Cerrito Police Department. Davis could not understand why the police department would be so unhelpful, or why I would want to fill out PS Form 1510. "That is not the right form," she told me.

I also told her about the complaint form I had filled out in October and asked her what would happen to it.

She said that it would be processed by the El Cerrito post office and forwarded to a central clearinghouse in St. Louis. I should get a response, but it might be awhile since she had three to six months worth of those forms stacked up in her office!

After a few days of being sent up and down San Pablo Avenue between the El Cerrito Police Department and the post office, I finally felt like I was getting somewhere when I received a letter from the Postal Inspector. They sent me PS Form 2016 and a fact sheet entitled, "Identity Theft: What to Do if It Happens to You."

I was sobered by my situation upon reading the first two paragraphs:

"... Unfortunately, at this time victims themselves are burdened with resolving the problem (of identity theft). It is important to act quickly and assertively to minimize damage."

"In dealing with authorities and financial institutions, keep a log of all conversations, including dates, names, and phone numbers. Note time spent and any expenses incurred. Confirm in writing. Send correspondence by certified mail (return receipt requested). Keep copies of all letters and documents."

Would I really have to contact all of the agencies listed on this form? Credit bureaus, creditors, law enforcement agencies, banks, check cashing agencies, the Secret Service, the Social Security Administration, the State Department, Pacific Bell, and the DMV? One thing was certain, I wanted to get a handle on this situation as soon as possible.

Over the next few months, I ordered copies of my credit report, completed a notarized affidavit for my bank, filed a complaint with the Postal Inspector, closed old credit ac-

See MAIL, Page A5



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Clarification on KPFA

As a longtime Bay Area journalist and Berkeley resident, I was stunned by the amateurish coverage of the KPFA dispute in your July 15 issue. Portions of the coverage were subtly colored by your poor choice of language, which obscured the nature of the conflict more than it explained it.

Let's start with the headline, charitably overlooking that the word "protestors" is a misspelling. You say that the police and protesters "hold KPFA hostage." Actually, of course, to the extent that KPFA is "held hostage" by anyone, it is the national Pacifica Foundation that is holding the station hostage. The local station management, employees, volunteers and constituency are as united as I have seen them in my 36-year residency in this community, and at this writing they have no control whatsoever over the station they created and sustained. You can't hold an entity hostage that belongs to you but is in someone else's control.

In the first paragraph of the story itself, you have the police and armed Pacifica security guards laying siege to the station. Frankly, I'm not sure what you intended by that reference, and I doubt that any of the parties to the dispute would be able to follow your logic. Ordinarily, the people laying siege to an institution are the ones outside its walls, not those on the inside.

Then you refer to the Pacifica Foundation as "the station's parent organization." That's not true. The Pacifica Foundation is the offspring of KPFA, not the other way around. The foundation was formed years after KPFA, to nourish the station and its affiliates and further local aims, not the other way around.

Paragraph two: You say "Chris Bernstein" was ejected from the station. You mean "Dennis Bernstein," of course. And you characterize him as a "firebrand broadcaster." Actually, Bernstein is a mild-mannered, middle-aged man and a nationally respected journalist. Either you are confusing him with someone else—Chris Bernstein, whoever he is?—or you choose that "firebrand" epithet to detract from his stature. In either case, it is a further indication of the tendentious inadequacy of your coverage.

I hope that in the future you will be able to shed some light on the KPFA controversy in a way that helps the public understand the roots of the tragedy rather than fanning the fires through error, misunderstanding and facile mischaracterization.

Peter Y. Sussman

Chapel of the Chimes fan

I wanted Snapp to know that I share his enthusiasm for the unique concerts at the Chapel of the Chimes and greatly appreciate his description which I will pass on to others interested in unique music venues.

Having lived here 52 years, I was taken away with this first visit to Julia Morgan's masterpiece. Didn't know about it until I went specifically to hear a neighboring composer's work.

Well written, thanks.

Robert Warren Jones

Thoughts on RDA

It has come to my attention that McNevin Cadillac has requested the assistance of El Cerrito's Redevelopment Agency in evaluating and assembling land parcels. I hereby send you my thoughts on this for your consideration.

Based on the agreement between the Council and the Committee of the Whole, the Redevelopment Agency will, in two weeks, be in hiatus until its debt to the city is repaid. That agreement stated that only an "extraordinary opportunity" would delay that action.

A delay has already been targeted in order for the RDA to assist El Cerrito Honda in its move. The proposed assistance for McNevin Cadillac would appear to be yet another way to postpone the agreed-upon action. It would also appear that more new proposals such as this might arise to delay matters even further. I would recall to you the following:

■ The RDA is broke. The only way it can continue assistance like that requested is to not repay its debt to the city, or to keep borrowing money from the city to which it already owes close to \$1 million.

■ Some proposals for new city spending have been based, in part, on the assumption that the RDA will repay \$320,000 of its debt during the coming fiscal year, with roughly equivalent amounts to follow in succeeding years until the debt is repaid.

■ Upon voting for the RDA hiatus, Mayor Brusatori said, with good common sense, that "It's time to put the city first."

■ Unless "putting the city first" becomes a dominant policy—in this case by seeking other ways to aid McNevin Cadillac—it is highly unlikely that support for a tax or bond measure to repair our degraded infrastructure will be forthcoming from either the Committee of the Whole or the voters.

■ The current level of trust in the city government is not exactly high. Please do not act in this to make the level even lower. Based on the foregoing, I strongly urge the Council to reject the proposed use of the RDA in this matter.

George Amberg
CotW member

Albany choked by 'flowers'

Albany is a small 27 block "flower box." Each plant (property and business) is a source of revenue (tax dollars) to sustain our city services. (Too few shoulders to bear such a heavy load). Planting more flowers (Albany Hill) until the box is so full the roots choke each other out. Yet we see our own city services being given over to Berkeley. (Our dog catcher—we used to have our own judge!) How will Albany sustain itself without sacrificing our small-town atmosphere? Or will we become an annex of Berkeley?

Since I bought my home in 1985 property values have doubled. The Nuisance Abatement Ordinance read "any property deemed to be holding back property values, could be abated." It seems like an attempt to "cull the flower box" and increase property tax revenues. Who ever

would take my place would have to make do with my income to get a loan. Where (in Albany) can someone earn such a wage? The face of our neighborhood would change. I call it "Economic Cleansing." Property tax revenues would be increased as new owners displace us. Even then it has its limits in the long run.

We are in such a hurry to give our land over to the state. Are we overlooking our best asset? An egress to the bay? A way to bring in tax dollars to Albany's many small specialty stores without having to plant new flowers?

In the years to come how will Albany's tax revenues rise at the rate of inflation? Will the build another layer on top? Or will we have a corporation into a city such as Berkeley that has a broader financial base?

I urge all of you who read this, to address the mayor and the council with your ideas. Can the Bulb be open space and a people's landing? Or will we be cut off from the bay and any possibility of revenue growth past what our own bank accounts can muster?

I personally, want free access to the bay to see what the state has done to restrict us. Charge fees and fines at other beaches it has taken over. (San Gregorio, compared to Miramonte Beach, Pt. Pinole, compared to Pt. Isabel).

The time to save the bulb, and Albany's financial future is right now!

Let us make a true people's park!
Susan Clayworth

KPFA's blast from past

The takeover of KPFA by Pacifica this week has evoked vivid flashbacks for me.

The year is 1974, and a cadre of self-righteous "revolutionary vanguards" in Minneapolis have just taken over the Peoples' Warehouse, the flagship and key asset of the co-op food distribution movement in the upper Midwest.

The language then was the same as it is now. The vanguard wanted more "diversity" and "class consciousness." Because the co-ops had lead pipes and were not hesitant to use them, they won, as most of the rest of us, excluding me, were committed pacifists.

The cadre, calling itself the Co-op Organization, frittered away the assets they stole to furtherance of their revolutionary agenda, but in the end they recruited almost no new people into the co-op movement.

Instead they managed to make themselves highly unwelcome in the communities they claimed to lead. There were guns involved in a few incidents, as the vanguard deemed it necessary to occasionally force its followers back in line. In the meantime, the larger co-op movement started a new warehouse and moved to strengthen our legal structures.

Today force is applied through the Justice Department and the Berkeley Police, but little else has changed. The legal infirmity of the Minneapolis co-op system allowed a small group to take it over without recourse to government intervention.

The Pacifica cadre was a bit more patient, working within the legal system until it had obliterated all democratic input in the sales

See LETTERS, Page A5

GENERAL MANAGER • RUTH MARICICH

EDITOR • CHRIS TREADWAY

ALBANY • EL CERRITO • KENSINGTON

THE JOURNAL

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"... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

— Thomas Jefferson, 1787

Letters

FROM PAGE A4

tion of board members, then packing the board with like-minded people eager for more centralized decision-making power.

Now, after a less-than-computer-literate Pacifica board member mis-addressed an e-mail letter to the board chair and instead sent it to the Media Alliance in San Francisco (apparently the adjacent address in his on-line address book), it appears that Pacifica is preparing to sell either KPFA or its New York station, WBAI. The sellout will net somewhere between \$50-\$100 million.

Despite the injustice of having a

cherished local institution destroyed in this way, I admit I am not all that surprised, or sad.

I knew this day (or something like it) was coming the day in 1988 when I was prevented from participating in a KPFA retreat. I was told by a young, upper-middle-class Filipino-American man, new to leftist politics, that I couldn't represent the Volunteer Programmers at KPFA because I was a Caucasian man, and that therefore I would have to leave.

I pointed out that the Volunteer Programmers' organization had voted unanimously for me to represent them, which only caused him to unleash more racist invective.

I stood silent, looking around the room, waiting for some support from

my friends and colleagues on the paid staff, but they were afraid to confront the climate of institutionalized divisiveness that prevailed at KPFA and all the Pacifica stations at the time. That attitude has only gotten worse in subsequent years. At Pacifica, the race card is the first card played in most disputes.

Much of my remaining goodwill toward Pacifica and KPFA evaporated in 1996 after I had worked three years on starvation wages to create a series of documentaries on new genetic discoveries.

With little help from Pacifica, I raised over \$1 million for the project, by far the biggest series Pacifica had ever produced. Two months after the money arrived, I found out

that the administrator of the project was keeping two sets of books and cheating me and the project out of thousands of dollars.

I reported this to Pacifica higher-ups, and was quickly fired for not being a team player. Nothing ever happened to the crooked administrator.

Until it can rid itself of corrupt, money-grubbing administrators at all levels, and eliminate the climate of sectarian intolerance on its board of directors, on its national staff, and at all its stations, peace will not prevail at Pacifica. It does not deserve our support.

But if our protests can stop the takeover, make us realize that we all have to work together, and keep us from having to start all over from scratch, it would truly be a remarkable victory for people-power in the Bay Area.

Matt Binder
Oakland
KPFA volunteer, 1984-1989
KPFA and Pacifica employee,
1989-1996

Enforce leash laws, or ban dogs from parks

(This letter was sent to Steve Jones and Pete Small of the East Bay Regional Park District)

I've just been told that park administrators and rangers are asking people who go to the East Bay Regional Parks to give our opinions about the dog problem because you're trying to find a solution.

One suggestion given was that you are considering putting more energy into further education.

For the safety of people who go to the parks, and to protect the wildlife which lives there, please do something more direct and substantial.

Over 10 years ago, I wrote and spoke to Ranger Richard Wirkala about the increasing number of dogs off-leash that were threatening people in the parks.

I was told that more citations were being issued, and people were also being warned to pick up their dogs' feces.

In spite of the rangers' work, the situation has become worse in the past 10 years. There are more dogs running loose, threatening and biting people, than ever before.

I don't believe further education will help. Dog owners already know how their dogs are harassing people and wildlife, because they witness and allow it.

When politely confronted, they are usually rude, often threatening, or say about their dogs, "Oh, they're just being friendly, they won't bite,"—not much comfort when you're facing four snarling Rotweilers off-leash.

I've been told that dogs allow women to be able to walk alone in the parks.

Well, I am a woman who sometimes walks alone, and I feel in far more danger from dogs.

It's not just dog bites that I and other people fear, but for many of us who have disabilities, we could be knocked down and badly injured by dogs that jump up on us.

Most trails have signs warning people about the dangers of mountain lions, yet it would make more sense to have warnings about dogs.

The increasing amount of dog feces is also a health hazard because

of the parasites and microbes in it.

It is even worse when the trails get dusty after the rains stop and we are breathing and being covered by dust contaminated with dry, disease-carrying feces.

Please consider banning dogs from all trails (except for guide and assistance dogs, of course) since most owners ignore the current laws.

As it is, trails that now require leashing have almost as many loose dogs as the other trails.

It is not unusual to walk on the Sequoia Bayview Trail for an hour and see at least 10 dogs off-leash.

If you won't ban dogs from all trails, then please ban dogs from the few level trails (like the Sequoia Bayview Trail), so that people who need to walk for our health, but are particularly vulnerable because of disabilities, are no longer in danger.

Dog owners say they have the right to take their dogs to the parks, but they have relinquished that right when the vast majority of them keep their dogs loose and completely uncontrolled and they continue to endanger people and wildlife on trails.

What of the rights of those of us who are always afraid when we go to the parks, those of us who have been knocked down by dogs or bitten, and those who have given up ever going to the parks because of fear?

Why are dogs and their owners being made more important than everyone else? If dogs are banned, or leash laws truly enforced, then everyone could go to the parks and the wildlife would also be safer.

Bev Jo
Signed in agreement:
Linda Giannoni,
Jean Henderson,
Julie McNeill

Mail

FROM PAGE A5

counts, notified the DMV, and a number of other things recommended on the identity theft fact sheet. I also sent letters to other creditors asking them to lower my lines of credit and to refrain, in the future, from sending me unsolicited offers for credit, including "convenience checks."

Luckily for me, there were no other problems that showed up on my credit report.

I had a mail slot installed in my front door—since the post office will not allow locked mailboxes for single family residences.

I tried, unsuccessfully, to obtain a police report from the El Cerrito Police Department. A police report would have been useful in my dealings with credit bureaus and creditors—and it seems that the ECPD's policy of not taking police reports for mail theft is the exception to the rule among police department nationwide.

I even went so far as to call Chief Linda Fellers to complain about their policy. She said that she would have her fraud investigator contact me. She seemed willing to have him provide me with a courtesy police report, but he never called.

I sent another letter to First USA Bank, making veiled threats of legal action if they did not reply to my request for a copy of the fraudulent credit application. They never responded.

As for the local post office, I must have made 10 attempts to get Davis to provide me with a copy of my original complaint. I even contacted Ray Gaffagan, the local postmaster. All of my attempts were in vain. To this day, I have not received any acknowledgement of my initial com-

plaint about undelivered mail.

What did I learn from my experience and what do I think should be changed to help victims of mail theft, credit fraud, or other forms of "identity theft?"

First, it is unfair to force the victim of these crimes to deal individually with three different credit reporting bureaus, countless creditors, banks, check cashing agencies, government agencies, and private businesses. It is also unfair to make the victim responsible for documenting all communications. These agencies have no legal accountability to victims and, in my experience, very few are willing to help.

There should be a single clearinghouse where victims of fraud can go to clear up their credit records. There should be a consumer protection law that forces government agencies and financial institutions to respond to the victims' requests in a timely manner.

Creditors often absorb the losses associated with these crimes, but that does not seem to deter them from continuing to send unsolicited offers for credit. In lieu of an easier system for dealing with the problems of identity theft, creditors should be forced to compensate victims of fraud for the time and expenses associated with cleaning up the mess arising out of their irresponsible business practices.

Law enforcement should be given the mandate and the resources to deal with these crimes. It seems incomprehensible to me that a bank robber, who might only steal \$2,000, has very little chance of escaping criminal prosecution, while the person who stole checks from my mailbox and cashed them for more than \$7,000 will likely never be caught.

Sadly, these changes are nowhere on the horizon. In the immediate future, it would be very helpful if the

federal law were changed to make credit-reporting agencies more responsive to victims of fraud. Currently, they only provide one report per year to victims of fraud. If there is ongoing fraud, it takes more constant monitoring of your credit report to detect the problem.

It does not seem too much to expect that the local police department and post office work together on this issue. There was nothing more frustrating than to have two local officials telling me to take my problems to the other agency. The police department is located a few hundred feet away from the post office and I doubt that they have even met to discuss this problem!

Protect your incoming mail by having it delivered to a secure point. Protect your outgoing mail by dropping it at a secure point. Mail might still be lost or stolen in route or upon delivery, but do what you can to improve the chance of it getting to the intended recipient.

Finally, write your local officials so they know that this issue matters to you. A little prevention might go a long way to protect you from these problems.

If you would like information on credit fraud or identity theft, contact the Consumer Rights Clearinghouse. They can send you the latest version of an identity theft fact sheet, prepared by CALPIRG:

Consumer Rights Clearinghouse
1717 Kettner Ave., Suite 105
San Diego, CA 92101
Phone: 619-298-3396
Fax: 619-298-5681
e-mail: HYPERLINKmailto:prc@privacyrights.org
prc@privacyrights.org
HYPERLINK <http://www.privacyrights.org>
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Chabot joins the celebration of the anniversary of first moon landing

By Sean Yokomizo

It was a giant leap for mankind that captured the collective human imagination for the last 30 years.

Chabot Observatory and Science Center and the Aircraft Carrier Hornet Museum will collaborate on a special week-long celebration to honor the 30th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing on July 20, 1969.

Astronaut Buzz Aldrin and others who participated in the Apollo 11

mission are scheduled to attend 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, July 24, on-board the aircraft carrier USS Hornet, at the former Alameda Naval Air Station, Alameda Point.

Space fans can also view displays featuring moon rock samples, rockets and Apollo spacesuits from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. through Thursday, July 22, on board the Hornet.

A special series of programs and space exploration classes, courtesy of the observatory, are scheduled 10 a.m.-10 p.m., Friday, Saturday, and

Sunday, July 23-25, also on board the carrier.

The Hornet was the aircraft carrier that recovered the command module, Columbia, when it returned from its history-making mission on July 24, 1969.

Adults who wish to volunteer to help the observatory stage its presentations on the July 23-25 should contact Marcia Hale at 530-3480, ext. 26.

Classified: 339-8777

SPECIAL EVENTS

FRIDAY, JULY 16, 10 a.m.

Morning of Apollo 11

Lift-off 1969

Grand Opening Festivities

Patriotic Music

Balloon Release

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

TUESDAY, JULY 20,

Day of Apollo 11 Moon

Landing 1969

Children's "Back to the Moon"

Creative Arts Exposition

SATURDAY, JULY 24,

Day of Apollo 11 Splashdown

& Recovery 1969

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

General Admission

Flight Deck Celebration

Honoring BUZZ ALDRIN

Edward Nixon

Distinguished Hornet

Crew Members

Evening Hours

Full Moon Viewing on

HORNET FLIGHT DECK

SUNDAY, JULY 25,

Final Day to See NASA

Exhibits

Apollo Films and Lectures

Evening Telescope Viewing

Interactive Events for Youth

Back to the Moon Art Contest

MOON FEST 1999

July 16 - July 25

on board the

USS HORNET

Pier 3, Alameda Point

Alameda

Join Us and Celebrate the
30th Anniversary of the
Apollo 11 Moon Landing Mission
and Honor Apollo 11
Astronaut Buzz Aldrin



Presented By

The Aircraft Carrier Hornet Museum and Chabot Observatory & Science Center

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Moon Landing Missions.

NASA EXHIBITS

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International Space Station
NASA Advanced Aviation
Exploring Our Universe
Moon Rock Display
Apollo Space Suits
Space Technology
Lunar Prospector
Mars Pathfinder
Space Shuttle
Space Food

DAILY FILMS, LECTURES, DEMO's

Apollo Film Documentaries
NASA Scientists
Astronomers
Mars Rover
Comets

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Explore a Planetarium
Children's Art Contest
Fly in a Simulator
Land a Shuttle
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EVENING ASTRONOMY

July 23 - 25
Astronomer Led Lectures &
Telescope Viewing of
Stars, Planets & Moon

INFORMATION

Aircraft Carrier Hornet Museum 510.521.8448
or WWW.USS-HORNET.ORG

GENERAL HOURS

Friday, July 16 - Thursday, July 22, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Friday, July 23 - Sunday, July 25, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.

GENERAL ADMISSION

ADULTS \$9 SENIORS \$7
YOUTH \$5 (5-18)

Jean Safir: A retiree who busier now than when she was working

Like so many of today's retirees, Jean Safir is too busy to think about what to do in her retirement.

Her garden takes much of her time, as do her workouts at the Y. She is a member of the Albany Library Advisory Board, which, of course, takes some time, and some of it is spent in travel, in classes that interest her, and, of course, she sees as much as she can of her two equally busy adult sons, Adam and Jonathan.

But the greater part of her time is spent working with the organization that she feels is most important—the League of Women Voters.

Safir waxes enthusiastic about the organization that does so much to educate people about the world around them: their cities and states and the country, the politics and people who play such a large part in everyone's life, and the facts upon which we must base those all important votes. Jean has found her work with this organization satisfying and fulfilling.

A quiet, interesting and witty woman, Jean was born in Philadelphia. When she was about 8 years

Community Folk

By Clara-Rae Genser

old, her family moved to Los Angeles, where she grew up, went to school, and attended UCLA. She came to Berkeley to do her graduate work, finishing with a master's degree in city planning.

Degree in hand, she returned to Philadelphia, where she felt the most interesting jobs were. She worked for the Redevelopment Agency for two years. She met the man who became her husband, married and had the two boys. When they were 2 and 5 years old, the marriage ended and she returned to California.

She looked up the people who had given her referrals and started working for ABAG, where she stayed for 11 years. She worked for the city of Moraga, then for Orinda for a few months, after which she retired. However, she continued to do consultation work for about five years. But last year she decided, "That's it. I'm too busy with the league."

At the time she joined the

Berkeley/Albany chapter of the league, it was just expanding, bringing Emeryville into the chapter. The league was also working on a project called Know Your Town and Safir worked on the committee, specializing in her own city, Albany. She did the writing and produced it on the computer where, she said, she learned a lot.

"I don't like to be a passive member of anything," Safir says, so she immediately took an active part in the league, although she was still working when she joined. She has done membership outreach, among other things, and is in her second year as vice president of the chapter.

She speaks of the study units, groups that study special issues and bring back recommendations to the league. Her job is scheduling, publicizing and writing articles about the study groups' recommendations. She recalls working with the Oakland League last year, studying welfare reform legislation, how it is being implemented, what kinds of problems it is having and what success. She says they are now going to do a study on Vista College, how it can work in

the community and how it can work with the high schools and be an effective community college. Another study will be Berkeley's General Plan.

She tells of the action committees that cover various areas, studying and reporting on the area itself and monitoring the public agencies. Ruth Ganong is the chair of the Albany Action Committee. And Jean Safir, of course, as vice president, has a part in all of them.

It is a busy, active, alive organization, doing important work locally as well as nationally. Safir is deeply involved, and loves every moment of it.

However, she did have time to talk about replanting her front yard with California natives, and her plans are to do the same in her back yard.

A busy lady. An involved lady. And happy in what she is doing. How great.

...

I have just a little room so I can tell you that recently I had something I have looked for in many places and finally found at Walkers

Restaurant: rhubarb pie! Most places have strawberry and rhubarb (they have that, too), but it is hard to find just rhubarb, that wonderful tart fruit filling. I knew I shouldn't indulge after a full, delicious meal, but, mmmm, it was good.

On that happy note...

...

Thank you, Winnie McLaughlin,

for suggesting Jean Safir had a great chat and I enjoyed meeting her. And I invite all to do the same. Give me your interesting people, even organizations, travel, etc.

Please write to me at 444 St., 443, Albany, CA 94706, 525-4585 (I have a new machine so I should get your sages).

My e-mail is crgenser@comcast.net

'Guys & Dolls' takes center stage at CCCT until Aug. 14

The Contra Costa Civic Theatre presents "Guys & Dolls" by Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows, music and lyrics by Frank Loesser, through Aug. 14.

The cast is directed by Jeff Seaberg. The classic musical won unanimous raves from critics and nabbed five Tony awards when it opened on Broadway in 1950.

The CCCT production features Dan LeGate, who wowed audiences as Curly in last year's CCCT production of "Oklahoma!" "Guys & Dolls" is full of memorable songs and lively dance numbers.

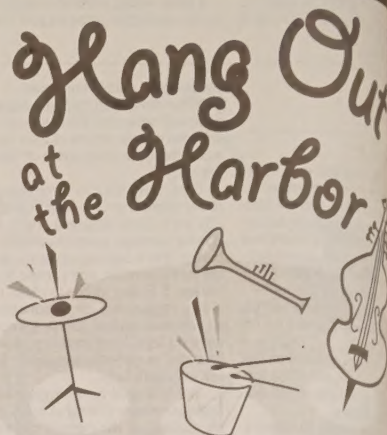
Tickets: Adults \$12, youths (18 and under) \$6. Performances are at 8 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays; Sunday matinees at 2 p.m., July 18 and 25, Aug. 1 and 8.

Contra Costa Civic Theatre is located at 951 Pomona Ave., El Cerrito.

For reservations, call 510-524-9132.



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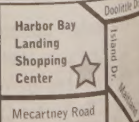
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Albany school board, teachers union reach contact agreement

By James Carter

ALBANY — The Board of Education reached a contract agreement with the Albany Teachers Association during its monthly meeting July 13.

Under terms of a contract ratified by the union on June 8, teachers will receive a 1.5 percent retroactive pay increase for work performed from 1998-99.

Teachers will receive a 1.4 percent cost of living allowance (COLA) increase, plus an additional 2 per-

cent for the 1999-2000 school year.

The 1.4 percent COLA increase will be used to "collapse" the salary scale, said ATA President David DeHart.

In layman's terms, that means teachers will reach the top pay scale five years sooner than before.

Previously, instructors had to teach for 30 years before receiving maximum pay, but under the new agreement that level will be achieved after 25 years of service.

"We think it's a good contract," DeHart said. "The 1.5 percent in-

crease was low, but it was due to declining enrollment, and we know the district lost money because of that. So we took less than teachers in other districts have been settling for, which, on average, is a 3 to 4 percent increase.

"We look forward to working closely together with Superintendent Gary Mills in a combined effort to improve Albany schools."

Efforts to contact board members and the superintendent for comment were unsuccessful.

Testing blooper's local cost

Scores for students in at least three area districts, including Albany Unified, affected by firm's errors

By Lisa Shafer

The latest error by the state's standardized test publisher has resulted in incorrect scores for at least three school districts in Contra Costa and Alameda counties, including the Albany Unified.

The number of students affected is unclear, but the latest mistake has raised new questions about whether the testing company should be penalized.

According to a list from the company, Harcourt Educational Measurement, scores at Albany, Mt. Diablo and Antioch school districts are affected.

The list also includes a "Contra Costa USD," which does not exist, but might mean the West Contra Costa Unified School District. Harcourt officials could not be reached Tuesday for clarification.

The local students are among 190,000 in 44 districts across the state who were misclassified in Harcourt's efforts to distinguish year-round students from those who go to schools with a traditional calendar.

Those mistakes resulted in questionable scores because students may be at a different grade level depending on their school calendar.

An earlier mistake, in which Harcourt blended scores of students with varying language skills, caused

the state to miss its original deadline of June 30 for posting the scores. The Texas publisher tested more than four million California students this spring through its Stanford Achievement Test, Ninth Edition.

Ed Slawski, Harcourt's senior research scientist, said Tuesday the company had fixed the latest problem and would return the corrected data to the state by the end of this week.

He also said the company would compensate the districts for any additional costs incurred because of the scoring errors.

But with the detection of this second error, some school officials are considering penalizing Harcourt.

In the coming months, 1,100 school boards will be voting on whether to pay Harcourt their share of the \$22.2 million testing fee, said Kevin Gordon, a lobbyist for the California School Boards Association.

"This (Harcourt) test is going to be an essential tool for accountability in California," said Gordon. "And if that's the case, then the accountability needs to start with the test publisher itself."

At its Aug. 2 meeting, the state Board of Education also will vote on whether to pay Harcourt its share of the fee.

Legislation to extend test reporting deadlines is scheduled to be

discussed today in the state Senate.

Meanwhile, Doug Stone, a Department of Education official, said that if the state receives the corrected data by Friday, it would doublecheck the information and release the scores on the Internet within the next week.

Stone said that as long as the scores are received within the next week or so, the state will be able to proceed on schedule with a program using test results to identify low-achieving schools to receive extra state aid in the coming year.

But the latest error was unsettling for school officials.

Mt. Diablo Unified School District officials said Harcourt told them the test scores of only three of the 26,000 students who took the test were in error, but not the students were.

Identifying those students is the problem, said Mt. Diablo research specialist Joe Marsich.

"So far, it's only a small problem," Marsich said. "But is it only three?"

Pat Rotelli, coordinator of testing for West Contra Costa, said Tuesday he had not heard anything about the possibility of more errors.

"Say it isn't so," he said when told of the district with the similar name. "If it's true, it's going to mean quite a bit of backtracking."

They have gray hair, and black belts!

Older residents turn to martial arts, plan to make aikido a lifelong practice

By Kristin Bender

There is a special throw in the martial art aikido that can take 20 years to perfect.

"When I first started, I called it the 20-minute throw," said Tom Gambell, chief instructor, or sensei, at East Bay Aikido in Oakland.

"But after doing it for a while, you learn there are certain things that you weren't doing, little nuances."

"Aikido is a lifelong practice," Gambell said.

One group of older aikidoists—between ages 49 and 61—knows that is true.

The group of five, who recently earned varying degrees of black belts, said they are committed to making aikido a lifelong practice and a way of life. Not everyone who starts lessons has that kind of patience. About 15 percent of those who start aikido last one year, and 5 percent of those who start lessons with Gambell stick with it long enough to earn a black belt.

"People who take this art need to understand that they have to give it time, the art is so elaborate and broad that you could spend the rest of your life learning it," said 51-year-old Roy Pippin, who recently earned a first-degree black belt.

Patience is a virtue in aikido, said Gambell, also 51.

"A lot of people who come into a self-defense practice have immediate needs: they are feeling fear or want to take care of themselves," he said. "Where I teach, and with aikido in general, more people start later in life. There is an element of aikido that appeals to the mature person who is more grounded in life."

The older aikidoists, with families, children, careers, other athletic interests and community involvement, said they were attracted to the art for different reasons.

It's not all about learning how to break somebody's elbows, stu-

dents said.

"Aikido is a way of responding to energy," said Tom Engh, a 61-year-old retired probation officer.

"Say you are a teacher dealing with an angry parent, you don't take them head on, you let the person vent and then redirect the energy into problem solving."

Engh, who lives in Alameda, began classes as a way to spend quality time with his adult daughters, who enjoy the art.

"My motivation was to learn enough to take classes with my kids, throw on a (uniform) and get on the mat with them. But in studying it, I discovered the other aspects of it," he said.

The other aspects include learning how to be in the world in a more relaxed and centered way, he and others agreed.

"Rather than just reacting, aikido prepares you to be in situations where you are being physically attacked and you learn grace under pressure," said Patrick Faggianelli, a 51-year-old psychotherapist from El Cerrito.

Considered the most sophisticated of the martial arts because of its intricate movements, it is called the "non-fighting martial art."

Practicing with a partner, aikidoists learn both physical and psychological self-defense tactics that can be used to break arms and elbows. However, the intention is to do as little harm as possible and to blend with the energy rather than dominate or destroy it.

Faggianelli, who started aikido after a fight on a Berkeley football field, earned a San Dan, a third-degree black belt, last month. He's been studying for 22 years. And although he thrives on the harmonizing energy aspect of the art, he also enjoys its physical nature.

"When some friends introduced me to it, I really liked the movement and seeing people get thrown across the room and not being hurt," he said. "You don't get hurt if you do it right."

Learning how to fall, roll and

Aikido, considered the most sophisticated of the martial arts because of its intricate movements, is called the non-fighting martial art.

get back up again are benefits of aikido, said Gambell. "Just the other day a student told me that he fell in the grocery store parking lot and he didn't bruise himself or his groceries," he said.

Aikido has definitely helped Pippin, a ventilation engineer at the California Medical Facility in Vacaville, regain his strength, movement and flexibility. Two or three times a week, the Vacaville man drives an hour and 15 minutes to Oakland and back for lessons at East Bay Aikido. Last month, six years after a herniated disk in his back left him laid up and struggling to walk, Pippin earned a first-degree black belt.

"I was laid up and couldn't move," he said. "I had taken judo and karate in my teens, but I just didn't hook up with it because it seemed too brutal." Aikido helped him tighten his back and stomach muscles and learn to properly stretch and breathe. "It was a long and tenuous struggle," he said. "But it was worth it."

"If I was able to be self-sufficient, I would practice and teach aikido to as many human beings on the face of the earth as possible," he said. "It can be used very violently, but after you've practiced with your partners for years, you understand that there's more to the art than just hurting people."

Call for craftspeople, artists and galleries

Berkeley Artisans Holiday Open Studios is looking for professional artists, craftspeople and galleries to be part of the ninth annual Holiday Open Studios event, which takes place on four weekends starting Nov. 27-28 through Dec. 18-19. Deadline is Aug. 27.

Artisans participate from their studios, giving the public a glimpse of

the creative process.

Interested artists should call 510-845-2612 for more information.

For information, contact Susan Brooks, Strawberry Creek Design Center, 1250 Addison, Studio 214, Berkeley, CA 94702. Call 510-845-2612, 11a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday.

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KPFA honchos calling shots from afar

O.K., I'm the first to admit when I'm wrong. And I was wrong two weeks ago when I said the heavy-handed, self-destructive tactics Pacifica was using against KPFA meant the Pacifica honchos were either malicious or stupid, but (nice guy that I am) I chose to take the high road and think of them as merely stupid.

Well, stupid me. It turns out they were malicious all along.

The evidence: an e-mail from Michael Palmer, a Houston real estate broker who sits on the Pacifica Board, to Board Chair Mary Frances Berry.

"I was under the impression there was a definite majority for shutting down that unit and reprogramming immediately," he wrote. "Has that changed? Is there consensus among the national staff that anything other than that is acceptable/bearable?"

Aside from the obvious implication that Pacifica has been dealing in bad faith the whole time—both with the KPFA staff and in its statements to the general public—it also raises the question of what does a real estate broker in Houston (or a bureaucrat in Washington, for that matter) know about

Snappshots

By Martin Snapp

what's best for us here in the Bay Area?

Some media smart-alecs are having fun portraying this as a bunch of aging Berkeley hippies turning out for one last hurrah. But that isn't reflected in the sheer volume of extremely thoughtful e-mails I'm getting from all over the East Bay. And from all races and all walks of life.

You don't have to wear love beads to like alternative radio, you know.

Even more shameful is Pacifica's attempt to mask a naked power grab by claiming they are only trying to increase the station's racial diversity and that those on the KPFA staff are all white elitists.

Putting aside the obvious libel on the KPFA staff (Nicole Sawaya, the popular general manager whose firing triggered all this, is, after all, a woman of color), this is the most cynical use of the race card since O.J. Simpson's belated discovery that he was black after he was indicted for murder.

What breaks your heart is to think how this dispute would have been handled in the old days. They would have brought both sides into the studio and hashed the whole thing out over the air, with everyone listening in.

It would have been another example of what makes KPFA so special.

But that was in the days before the Pacifica Board started acting like the International Olympic Committee.

If you want an example of why we need stations like KPFA around, look no further than the mainstream alternative, KSJO-FM, where a disk jockey named Mikey fed two live rabbits and a live piglet to a 23-foot python on his show last Thursday.

The snake proceeded to strangle the animals to death and eat them, live (as it were) on the air. And for those who wanted to increase their enjoyment by watching, too, KSJO broadcast video of the event on the Internet. Aficionados could hear every terrified

squeak and watch every terrified dart of the eyes.

I couldn't get hold of Mikey, but I did manage to talk to his producer, a young woman named Sky. (Apparently, they don't have last names at the station.) And her attitude was basically, hey, the snake's gonna eat anyway. What's the big deal?

Well, true. But we also have slaughterhouses. Should we broadcast what goes on there? Or executions of condemned prisoners? For that matter, should we allow snuff films because murders are going to happen anyway?

At what point do we start worrying about the coarsening of our culture? At what point do we start protecting our children from being bombarded by this brutality?

And that brings me to something else I heard on the radio last week: a commercial that the American Federation of Teachers has been running in response to the school shootings in Littleton, Colo.

"It won't help just to wring our hands and condemn these acts,"

says AFT President Sandra Feldman. "The most important thing we could do is to pay much closer attention to our own kids. Take time to talk to them. Listen. Find out what's happening in their lives. And if you can't get them to communicate, then snoop."

Whoa! Snoop? Really? Is that the way to win their hearts and minds? If you have to snoop, what does that say about your relationship in the first place?

Anyway, that was my first reaction. But the more I thought about it, my second reaction was, "Easy for you to say, Martin. You don't have any kids. But if you did, and you thought they were in danger, you'd make the Grand Inquisitor look like Mr. Rogers."

Which is to say that I really don't know what to think. But I do know that this is an important issue, one we should talk about.

So I'm appealing to you, my readers. If you're a parent, tell me what you think. Have you ever snooped on your kid yourself? And how did it work out?

If you're a child, what would you think if you found out your parents were snooping on you?

Has it actually happened to you? Or your friends?

Please phone, write or e-mail me your experiences and thoughts. I promise to print a selection in an upcoming column.

And finally, a sorrowful nod to John Kennedy Jr., his wife, Carolyn, and her sister Lauren. The Civil War was our national war, and the Lewis & Clark Expedition was our Odyssey, then, surely the Kennedys are our House of

I always knew Jackie was a someday, and that when she would suddenly feel very old, never thought I'd outlive that sweet little boy.

As with his father, we'll miss the rest of our lives wondering what might have been. And his adage reminds us, those are the saddest words of all.

Phone Martin Snapp at (415) 903-9039; write him c/o Hill Newspapers, 5707 Redwood Road, Oakland, CA 94619; or e-mail me at catman@california.com.

Plant sale benefits Friends of Baxter Creek

The Friends of Baxter Creek will hold a plant sale at the creek 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Saturday, July 31. Plants or volunteer time are welcome, and all money raised will be donated to the group.

Friends of Baxter Creek is affiliated with the Urban Creeks Council, a nonprofit agency devoted to urban creek restoration and preservation.

Baxter Creek is at the northern end of the Ohlone Greenway in El Cerrito, one block south of Macdonald Avenue and east of San Pablo Avenue.

Suggested items for donations include plants, grasses, bushes, seeds, bulbs, gardening books, plastic bags for garden debris and usable garden tools. Do not bring garden chemicals, soil or opened fertilizers. Anything not sold will be donated to Habitat for Humanity.

To make donations or for more information, call Rosemary Loubal at 233-8027. For information about Friends of Baxter Creek, call Maryann Aberg at 236-5351, or Lisa Owens-Viani at 237-7968.

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City developing blueprint for economic development action

El Cerrito City Council seems headed to some type of partnership with the Chamber of Commerce

By J. R. Deaton

EL CERRITO—Money may or may not be the root of all evil, but having enough of it sure helps a city work.

In an effort to improve the city's economic health, the City Council continues to try to define economic development and implement an Economic Development Program in El Cerrito.

At meetings in June and July, council members agreed on some things and funded the new program for six months, but there are still many plans to be worked out and questions to be answered.

In the coming weeks and months, a group of people including Redevelopment Agency Chairwoman Jane Bartke, Mayor Gina Brusatori, city staff, members of the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce and other members of the community plan to develop a blueprint for economic development action.

Just what is economic development? Should the program be self-supporting, and who exactly will develop and implement the plan?

Earlier this month, former Redevelopment Program Manager Elisa Tierney became the economic development manager, an interim appointment, and the City Council approved plans to transition from redevelopment to economic development.

There are still many decisions to be made by the City Council and others concerning economic development and what it means to El Cerrito. Some type of partnership with the Chamber of Commerce seems to be the route the council is heading towards and most people seem to think the "visioning" time has passed and that it is now time to act.

The directors of the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce, in a statement presented to the City Council at its June 21 meeting by chamber member and former mayor Marge

Collins, urged formation of an Economic Development Council. Collins said this council would include "chamber representatives, City Council representatives, knowledgeable community business leaders and development-minded local citizens."

Reading from the directors' statement, Collins urged that the City Council "take a more vigorous policy-making leadership role" to make El Cerrito a "business friendly city" and recommended a re-structuring of the Planning Commission.

"We are ready to call an open forum of the business community to develop a blueprint for attracting new businesses, retaining present businesses and making this a truly business friendly city," Collins said.

Tierney said in a July 6 report to the City Council that Chamber of Commerce conclusions that city staff "sought to incorporate into the proposed Economic Development Program" are not accurate.

"Staff is not proposing this, nor does staff find in the attached agenda

bill how the chamber draws this conclusion," Tierney reported.

The City Council voted last April to place the Redevelopment Agency into hiatus until its debt to the city is paid off. The agency owed the city about \$877,000, mostly for reimbursement of staff costs and accumulated interest.

Other than for legally required activities, or reactivation because of a council-approved "extraordinary opportunity," the Redevelopment Agency is in hibernation. Some in the community, including the Chamber of Commerce directors, have voiced fears that the name on the door will simply be changed from "Redevelopment" to "Economic Development" without real change.

"What they said was we're transitioning the (Redevelopment) Agency down to nothing," except for the legally required activities, Tierney said earlier this week to explain the City Council's action. "In terms of how we're going to handle these ongoing activities of development proposals that keep walking through

the door in the absence of redevelopment, they said, convert them to economic development."

She said economic development staff will handle these proposals until a request for agency assistance is made. Once such a request is made, the matter goes to the City Council which will decide if the proposal is an "extraordinary opportunity" worthy of agency assistance.

"The council has directed," City Manager Gary Pokorny noted at the July 6 council meeting, that the city's focus "be changed to economic development from its prior redevelopment focus." Pokorny said, "I would hope we could avoid drawing up sides," and added that his staff's desire "is to work cooperatively with all of the stakeholders."

He said city staff intends to work with the council and the community, especially the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce, "to develop a written economic development program that reflects council and the community desires."

"I think the purpose of economic

development is to improve the quality of life in our community," Councilman Mark Friedman said at the same meeting. He said economic development can provide goods and services, local jobs and tax revenues for residents of the city. Friedman urged action rather than more studies and consultants.

"There's nothing mysterious about our current economy — there's nothing mysterious about the demographics of El Cerrito and our potential place in that economy," Friedman contended. He said the basic tasks of economic development are business retention and business attraction. "I think we should get about the business of doing it," Friedman said, and urged inclusion of the Chamber of Commerce and any other interested citizens.

"Part of the problem is that economic development has become kind of a buzz word," Tierney said. "Everybody has a different definition of what economic development is." For some, it may mean business retention, for others it may mean for-

"We are ready to call an open forum of the business community to develop a blueprint for attracting new businesses, retaining present businesses and making this a truly business friendly city."

— Former mayor Marge Collins

mation of a merchants' association or a loan program for small businesses, Tierney said.

"It could be all sorts of different things," she said.

A meeting between Bartke, Brusatori, city staff and the Chamber of Commerce representatives was originally set for last Friday, but had to be re-scheduled.

This group will apparently help select who will be on the Economic Development Council recommended by Collins and the chamber directors. This council will then work to develop the actual economic development blueprint and program to be approved by the City Council.

Tierney said the City Council has indicated they hope El Cerrito's Economic Development Program to be "up and running" by the end of the year.

Kites

FROM PAGE A1

borne contraptions, including Jack Rogers' "Incredible Aquarium in the Sky." The show features a 100-foot octopus kite, as well as a flying manta ray and fugu fish.

"Some of (the kites) are so big that an adult can go inside of them," McAlister said. "That's a big kite."

There will be a Japanese-style Rokaku kite battle, integrating old traditions from the East with those of the West Coast. The event promises to be a fight to the finish.

"No matter what happens on the field, you must declare victory," said McAlister. He added that to do this,

one must incorporate yelping and a battle cry, which is a great crowd-pleaser.

Taiko drummers from Taiko Spirit will provide the perfect music for the bout.

This year's festival will mark the first time the Mile of Sky mass ascension is demonstrated. The record-making stunt will attempt to fly a mile of windsocks in the air.

Kite flying is a tradition that originated nearly 2,000 years ago when the Chinese invented the kite.

"The Chinese have a really rich heritage in kite flying that goes back a long way," said McAlister.

China will be represented at this year's event with a 165-foot dragon kite, hand-crafted from silk and bamboo.

"They're pretty much the pinnacle of Chinese kites," said McAlister.

Other events include demonstrations coordinated by Bruce and Lori Morrison. The couple been involved with the festival for 10 years. A kite ballet synchronized to music is among the events slated for the festival.

"Try to think of the Blue Angels (Navy flying team), only we do it with kites and strings," said Morrison. He says he possesses a deep passion for the sport of kite flying.

"The joy is just flying the kite. The maneuvering comes in between that," he said.

The event, free to the public, promises to be a grand show. Children can enjoy free kite-making, a candy drop, a coloring contest, free kite flying lessons and a bounce house. Activities begin at 10:30 a.m. and end at 5 p.m. each day.

"We recommend that people come early because of traffic congestion," said McAlister. Between 10,000 and 20,000 people are expected to turn out for the event.

On July 18, climb aboard the Empress Hornblower dining yacht for an awards banquet and dinner cruise. All are welcome to attend for \$35 per person.

For information regarding the cruise or the festival, call 510-235-KITE (5483), or check out the Berkeley Kite Festival's Web site at www.highlinekites.com/Berkeley_Kite_Festival/.

Shellmound

FROM PAGE A1

Spencer's Restaurant. The scientific and cultural significance of these efforts have yet to be made public.

The local shellmound conference is sponsored by the Berkeley Archi-

tectural Heritage Association, News for Native California, and the UC-Berkeley Archaeological Facility.

The event will be held 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on July 25 at Galen Rowell's Mountain Light Photography Studio in Emeryville. There is a \$5 admission charge.

For more information, call 510-841-8562.

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Podiatrist turns foot fetish into toe treats

By Matthew S. Bajko

"Sure, being chief of podiatry for Alta Bates brings prestige. And authoring a renowned sports medicine book brings notoriety.

But Mark Wolpa's greatest imprint on his profession comes in 18 ounces of Ghirardelli chocolate.

For 15 years, podiatrists have bought chocolate feet from Wolpa's Toe-Food Chocolates.

"I needed something to send to my referring doctors. Over dinner one night my wife said, 'What about a chocolate foot?'" Wolpa recalled. "If I liked it, I thought other podiatrists would."

So Wolpa asked a patient of his Berkeley Foot Clinic to shed her shoes and socks, using her size 6 1/2 as the model for the company's first foot.

"We just had one product — the big chocolate foot," said Wolpa. "We sold a few hundred just with mailers to podiatrists in three states."

One of his first customers was longtime friend and podiatry schoolmate Howard Zlotoff.

"Our staff looks forward to it every year. They can't wait for the chocolate feet to arrive," said Fern Zlotoff, who manages her husband's practice in Camp Hill, Penn. "They are just glad we are not urologists."

After the first year, Wolpa spread his toes out, incorporating a chocolate tennis shoe and champagne bottle into his comical candy choices.

"I'm a little tongue and cheek, as is my wife," he said. "In our travels, we have found there is a large segment of the population who's creative and off-beat and enjoys dry humor."

There is nothing dry about his foot suckers — lollipop feet that helped to kick off the Broadway show "Footloose" in New York. And his Missile

Toe product received a launch from NASA when it ordered several dozen of the rocket-shaped containers to celebrate John Glenn's return to space last year.

The company changes sizes each year with the addition of at least one new product. This year's latest entree has catapulted the confectioner into the national spotlight.

Packaged in an authentic software box, Wolpa's newest foot food is the Y2K Repair Kit. Its sales pitch "Start your Millennium off on the Right Foot" is a favorite with computer companies. Genentech and Oracle have ordered hundreds of the 10 ounce chocolate feet for their employees and clients.

The sweet success of Toe-Food Chocolate doubled last year when the company went online with its own Web site. And this year couldn't taste any better, with sales projections already 35 percent ahead of last year.

The feat of running a successful candy company is no easy step. Luckily for Wolpa, his appendage was deemed anatomically appropriate by the Knudsen Chocolate Factory in Hayward. But plant manager John Cosgrove admitted he didn't think Wolpa's foot would walk very far, especially since it's made with high-end chocolate.

"It's not an approach historically used with finer chocolates," he said. "But Mark had a well-defined plan and good market to start off with. He had an interest in doing something other than operating on people's feet."

Now when Wolpa shows up with his latest concoction, Cosgrove said he goes out of his way to help. When petite feet, 2 1/2-inch bite-sized feet, were born, Cosgrove helped Wolpa locate a Belgium mold-maker.

The "It's a Boy/Girl" bags of mini feet are perfect gifts for Nancy Roth-

There is nothing dry about his foot suckers — lollipop feet that helped to kick off the Broadway show "Footloose" in New York.

man, who sold real estate in Piedmont and Oakland for eight years. She now works in Orinda for Pacific Union.

"The first thing that came to my mind was the mini-chocolate feet because of the baby, so many people in my business move because they are having children," said Rothman, who discovered the Web site last year.

The Web site offers toe tales on how to utilize the different products. Office manager Pat Brown hasn't stopped laughing since she was hired this past April Fool's Day.

"I didn't even know it was foot related. I just saw an ad in the paper looking for someone to run an Internet candy business," said Brown. "People don't hear real well and hear tofu instead of Toe-Food. I did the same thing when I talked to Mark and thought, 'That doesn't sound like good chocolate to me.'"

Wolpa's fetish for creating chocolate foot products already has him planning next year's product, sole food.

"My best ideas come when I'm doing surgery and something clicks," said Wolpa. "Usually just sitting down and thinking about it doesn't get it."

To order Toe-Food Chocolates call 1-888-TOE-FOOD or access www.toe-food.com.

EC Council

FROM PAGE A1

in El Cerrito.

"I don't see any of those things happening in quick enough time to prevent some of the negative impacts," voiced by the public, Friedman said. He added that when specific development projects are considered in the future, transportation issues will be a priority.

"When the time comes to look at any specific project, that's where the real transportation details are going to have to be worked out before we approve any of those plans," Friedman said.

"We live above the banks of the Mississippi — it's called I-80," said resident Peter Loubal. "And when that overflows, it overshadows everything else."

He said that if there is a major increase in traffic on the freeway, traffic will soon overflow onto San Pablo Avenue and other El Cerrito streets.

Resident Beatrice O'Keefe said, "We can't be ostriches and stick our heads in the sand" about traffic problems in the city. She said that old traffic figures were used in the proposed plan.

"I believe that our General Plan should reflect the best current information that we have," she said.

Damon said the General Plan update "falls short of expectations." Damon said the "open space and conservation element" of the old 1975 General Plan is "substantially stronger and more aggressive than the one we have here."

Damon also said, "I don't know that enough effort and money and time and analysis" was spent on traffic issues. He said that perhaps too

much time, money and effort was spent on "these visioning kind of sessions" and not enough on traffic. Damon encouraged the council to use the "little bit of time" between now and Aug. 30 to reconsider these sections of the General Plan, but the council motion precluded such action.

The vote was 4-1 to accept the revised General Plan as proposed and certify the EIR. The final adoption vote is expected Aug. 30.

McNevin Cadillac Volkswagen

In other business, the council decided it needed more information before deciding whether to assist McNevin Cadillac Volkswagen to relocate to El Cerrito.

Last month, Michael W. McNevin wrote to the council to explore the possibility of moving his Berkeley business to the Redevelopment Agency's Eastshore Boulevard Development Site in El Cerrito. McNevin said his growing business is outgrowing its 2-acre Berkeley location and would like to move to the 3.9-acre Eastshore Boulevard site.

McNevin said he expects to sell 1,150 vehicles this year, with a total sales volume of \$35 million. Such sales figures would translate into \$350,000 in sales tax revenues for El Cerrito if the business were located here, Economic Development Manager Elisa Tierney told the council this week.

McNevin Cadillac Volkswagen currently operates a used car dealership in El Cerrito. Michael McNevin told the council at Monday night's meeting that the Eastshore Boulevard site was "a good location for an auto dealership," close to BART and the freeway on San Pablo Avenue.

Tierney reported that she has asked the city for help with acquisition, determining the costs associated with environmental cleanup of any contaminated sites. There would also be costs for site preparation and search work and relocation costs in property acquisition.

The Redevelopment Agency is currently in hiatus and would be reactivated if the council approves the McNevin proposal as an "extraordinary opportunity" of public assistance.

There were questions about and about Best Inn El Cerrito owners of which are also interested in developing a portion of the shore Boulevard Development.

But it was clear that the project would cost \$350,000 in additional sales tax revenues for city coffers per year, an enticing possibility.

Councilman Norman LaRocca said, "it's great to have a business owner who wants to come to El Cerrito," but agreed that more information was needed.

Damon said he would like to do a "cost-benefit analysis" of the proposal. Mayor Gina Brusati gestured that perhaps the city could offer its three city-owned El Cerrito Boulevard properties as its contribution to the relocation effort.

Brusati said she does not want to reactivate the Redevelopment Agency at this time.

In the end, the City Council unanimously for staff to gather additional information about the proposed project and to continue with McNevin Cadillac Volkswagen and Best Inn El Cerrito.

The matter will be revisited at council's Aug. 30 meeting.

Please recycle this newspaper

JACK LONDON VILLAGE

ON THE WATER

ON THE WATER

Selected "best place for a Sunday afternoon in a city," by Bay Guardian. On the Oakland waterfront at Alameda Embarcadero, across from the Antioch station.

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PEARLE VISION

ALBANY IN BRIEF

Superintendent at meeting

A public meeting with new Albany Superintendent of Schools Gary Mills is scheduled for Aug. 25. Mills will address questions from the community regarding issues such as preliminary spending plans for revenue to be created by Measure A, a \$120 a year parcel tax over-whelmingly passed by voters last June. The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Marin School multi-purpose room.

PTA agrees with pesticide ban

The PTA Council recently agreed with community-based efforts to ban the use of pesticides and herbicides around Albany schools.

The controversy arose when parents and teachers learned that the College of Natural Resources/University of California were using the herbicide RoundUp at the Gill Tract, just yards away from Ocean View Elementary School.

Some studies have suggested RoundUp poses potential dangers to people, especially children, though the UC spokesmen insist it is harm-

less if applied properly.

Negotiations are still under way between an Albany parent group and the CNR regarding continued use of the controversial weed killer.

Arrests at the Bulb

As of press time, there have been four arrests and 19 citations at the landfill known as the Bulb since July 7.

The arrests were made after residents living there received a second citation by the APD for violating an ordinance designed largely to clear the Bulb of residents and prepare it for sale to East Bay Regional Parks.

"We will continue to make arrests," said Police Chief Larry Murdo. "It's my hope that at some point the courts will tire of individuals that are flaunting the law and enjoin them from doing so in the future."

Murdo said that officers have videotaped and documented each encounter with Bulb residents.

"The first time we warned them," he said, "The second time we gave them a citation, and handed them another document letting them know they were subject to arrest if they continued to violate the ordinance."

The police chief said the third time a Bulb resident is cited, officers

"booked them pursuant to applicable law."

If arrested again, Murdo said police won't give them a notice to appear, but send individuals "directly to the Berkeley jail."

Reaffirming a viewpoint he has made since the landfill ordinance was passed, Murdo said, "This entire situation regarding homeless people is a national disgrace."

He said homelessness is a national problem and that legislators should pass legislation and funding to solve it.

Sandy Bender new PTA president

Sandy Bender is the new president of the Albany PTA Council, succeeding Karen Carlson Olsen.

The council, which represents all public schools in Albany, functions as a "gatherer" of information, according to Olsen.

This upcoming year, Teacher Union President David DeHart and Vice President Nancy Bowen have agreed that at least one of them will regularly attend meetings of that body.

A fine time was had by all at Albany Bowl mixer

By Roxanne Wiley

The Albany Bowl Mixer was July 13, and what a good time!

John Tierney and his fine staff put on a great party with delicious finger food from the Albany Bowl Cafe, owned by Tony and Cathy. The restaurant features Thai and regular American bowling alley fare, all of which is great.

Drop by the Albany Bowl for games, food, as well as bowling. There is something to appeal to all ages at this fun emporium.

ALBANY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

1,212) and Graham Guelzt actually guessed 1,201. Maybe this young man should start playing the stock market.

Albany pool employees of the month

Here I must apologize. It seems I somehow missed the May Employee of the Month, so I will address both May and June in this column.

Erin Hestir has been selected May Employee of the Month due to her undying generosity.

She substituted for others at the end of the year, and swam a plethora of end-of-the-year swim parties for elementary and middle school students.

She is also an excellent teacher of children's and adult swim classes.

Dianne Tulley has been chosen the June Employee of the Month. She is the dedicated person who opens the pool early in the morning.

She has worked at the pool since 1990, but has recently taken a full-time job, which will limit her work at the Albany Pool. She will be greatly missed.

Karen McSweeney has been selected spring Teacher of the Season for Children's Lessons.

She has great ideas and cares about the student's progress. She has worked at the pool since 1990 and is a middle school teacher.

Yosh Murakawa, is the Adult Teacher of the Season for spring.

His enthusiasm is boundless and his attitude really comes across to his students.

I know that the whole community congratulates the winners. Thank you.

REUNIONS

Richmond High School, Class of 1974, is planning its 25-year reunion for Saturday, Sept. 11, at the Sheraton Concord Contact Class Encounters at 1-800-445-2527.

Berkeley High School, Class of 1979, is holding its 20-year reunion on Saturday, Sept. 18, at Scott's Seafood Restaurant in Oakland. Contact Great Reunions at 1-714-937-5000 or 1-800-655-7971.

Berkeley High School, classes of fall 1948 and spring 1949, are holding a joint 50-year reunion on Friday, Oct. 1, and Saturday, Oct. 2. Contact John Underhill at 1-510-236-4807 or C.R. Hunter at 1-925-932-1772, or write to 2623 Yuba, El Cerrito (94530).

Oakland High School, classes of January and June 1959, are holding their 40-year reunion on Saturday, Oct. 2, at the Pleasanton Hilton Hotel. Contact Carol Roland Reeve at 1-925-254-1326.

Richmond Union High School, Class of 1954, is planning its 45-year reunion for Saturday, Oct. 16, at the Embassy Suites in Walnut Creek. Contact Donna (Chate) Irwin at 1-925-228-6980, or Joyce (Smith) Pimental at 1-925-228-8024.

San Lorenzo Valley High School, Class of 1989, is organizing its 10-year reunion to pass along updated information of classmates, call or fax Jenni (Markley) Allen at 1-925-754-7231, or e-mail at Calan307@aol.com.

Alameda High School, Class of 1979, is making preparations for its 20-year reunion. To help locate class members or to update address information, call Nancy Wiese Stagle at 1-510-889-8487, or Cindy Zacher at 1-510-523-7361.

Sydney High School, Class of 1969, will hold its 30-year reunion on Sept. 25 at the Lordships in Berkeley. For more information, call Back to the Future Reunions at 1-831-662-8482.

Washington High School, Classes of 1978-79-80-81, will hold a reunion on July 24 at the Westin in Santa Clara. For more information, call Back to the Future Reunions at 1-831-662-8482.

Academy High School, Class of 1989, will hold its 10-year reunion on Oct. 23 at Crown Plaza in San Francisco's Union Square. For more information, call Back to the Future Reunions at 1-831-662-8482.

Castro Valley High School, Class of 1979, will hold its 20-year reunion on July 24 at the Hilton in Pleasanton. For more information, call Back to the Future Reunions at 1-831-662-8482.

Marionette High School, Class of 1979, is searching for alumni for its 20-year reunion, which is scheduled for July 24-25, 1999, in the Walnut Creek area. Contact

Elie Kessler Vierra, reunion committee coordinator, at 1-916-933-1826, or e-mail at gmeredi@sonic.net.

DeAnza High School, classes of 1978 and 1979, are celebrating a combined 20-year reunion on Saturday, July 31, at Embassy Suites in Napa. Class of '78 should contact Nancy at 1-925-937-4564. Class of '79 should contact Carol at 1-707-746-8669.

Monte Vista High School, Class of 1979, is organizing its 20-year reunion for Saturday, Aug. 7, at Round Hill Country Club in Alamo. Seeking classmates and organizers: contact Sheri (Shansby) Boyden at 1-775-829-9341, or Cece (O'Donnell) McCarthy at 1-925-462-1430 or by e-mail at compulsion@aol.com.

Fairfield High School, Class of 1979, is celebrating its 20-year reunion on Sunday, Aug. 8, at Paradise Valley in Fairfield. Call Back to the Future Reunions at 1-832-662-8482.

Vacaville High School, Class of 1979, is holding its 20-year reunion on Saturday, Aug. 14, at Vacaville Cultural Center. Contact Class Encounters at 1-800-445-2527.

Clayton Valley High School, Class of 1989, is planning its 10-year reunion for Saturday, Aug. 21, at the Sheraton Concord Contact Great Reunions at 1-714-937-5000 or 1-800-655-7971.

Pittsburg High School, Class of 1974, is holding its 25-year reunion at 7 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 21, at Zandonella's Italian Restaurant in Pittsburg. Contact Tom Lewis at 1-925-432-8838 or Marge (Dudash) Buffo at 1-925-754-2157.

Hayward Union High School, classes of 1952 through 1955, are celebrating a joint reunion on Saturday, Aug. 21, at the San Ramon Marriott Bishop Ranch. Call Winnie Curtis-Redfern at 1-510-657-6757.

Clayton Valley High School, Class of 1969, is holding its 30-year reunion on Saturday, Aug. 28, with a luncheon at the Mt. Diablo Trail Association Clubhouse. All classmates are encouraged to call Sheila Cordray Davis at 1-925-871-7474, or e-mail dunacompuserve.com.

C.K. McClatchy High School, Class of 1974, in Sacramento is planning its 25-year reunion for Saturday, Aug. 28, at the Doubletree/Red Lion Inn in Sacramento. Call Debbie (Gin) Staley at 1-916-689-4262.

Campolindo High School, Class of 1979, is holding its 20-year reunion on Sunday, Sept. 5, at Roundhill Country Club. Contact Kathy Vilas-Ahr at 1-925-283-3109.

Albany High School, Class of 1979, is celebrating its 20-year class reunion on Saturday, Sept. 11, at the Moraga Coun-

try Club. Contact the class reunion hotline at 1-510-528-3043.

Berkeley High School, Class of 1979, is holding its 20-year reunion on Saturday, Sept. 18, at Scott's Seafood Restaurant in Oakland. Contact Great Reunions at 1-714-937-5000 or 1-800-655-7971.

Clayton High School, Class of 1979, is organizing its 20-year reunion for Saturday, Sept. 18, at Oakhurst Country Club in Clayton. Contact Contact Reunion Masters at 1-408-448-7888 or 1-800-359-7888.

Napa High School, Class of 1969, is celebrating its 30-year reunion on Saturday, Sept. 18, at the Marriott Napa Valley Contact Class Encounters at 1-800-445-2527.

Gardena High School, classes of 1929-1999, is holding a combined reunion on Saturday, Sept. 18. Write to GHS Picnic Potluck Reunion, 1103 W. 228th St., Torrance, CA (90502), or call Louise Denney-Larson at 1-702-646-2128.

Ygnacio Valley High School, Class of 1979, is holding its 20-year reunion on Saturday, Sept. 25, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Walnut Creek. Contact Reunion Masters at 1-408-448-7888 or 1-800-359-7888.

Antioch High School, Class of 1989, is celebrating its 10-year reunion on Saturday, Sept. 25, at the Sheraton Concord Hotel. Call Back to the Future Reunions at 1-832-662-8482.

Pinole Valley High School, Class of 1979, is planning its 20-year reunion for Saturday, Sept. 25, at the Holiday Inn in Emeryville. Committee is looking for lost classmates; to update or obtain information, call Maria Parada at 1-925-370-9267, or e-mail sonrisajuno.com.

Palo Alto High School, Class of 1949, is celebrating its 50-year reunion on Saturday, Sept. 25, at the Palo Alto Sheraton Hotel. Call Peggy Averell at 1-650-968-6107.

Mountain View Union High School, Class of 1949, is holding its 50-year reunion on Friday, Oct. 1, at Michael's at Shoreline in Mountain View. Call Eugene Sharp at 1-650-493-1488.

Berkeley High School, classes of fall 1948 and spring 1949, are holding a joint 50-year reunion on Friday, Oct. 1, and Saturday, Oct. 2. Contact John Underhill at 1-510-236-4807 or C.R. Hunter at 1-925-932-1772, or write to 2623 Yuba, El Cerrito (94530).

Oakland High School, classes of January and June 1959, are holding their 40-year reunion on Saturday, Oct. 2, at the Pleasanton Hilton Hotel. Contact Carol Roland Reeve at 1-925-254-1326.

Iguana Ameramex: Mexican Furnishings

You no longer have to go south-of-the-border to find hand crafted, one-of-a-kind Mexican home furnishings. Iguana Ameramex now brings them to you at their Oakland and Walnut Creek locations.

The products found at Iguana Ameramex are exclusively of Mexican origin and are completely handmade, mostly by very small artisans located throughout Mexico. They deal primarily in Mexican colonial and rustic furniture styles that have remained unchanged for over 200 years, and gravitate toward one-of-a-kind items such as unique pieces made from reclaimed and salvaged articles.

Their presence in Mexico is constant and reliable. A large consolidation warehouse is maintained in Guadalajara, where they pool the items purchased in the central highlands region of the country. These regions generally include the states of Jalisco, Michoacan, Oaxaca, Guanajuato and Queretaro. The permanent staff there includes buyers, packers and painters who devise custom finishes for many of the furniture pieces they carry.

Iguana is as much a human interest story as it is a business. Co-owners Bill McCleary, Richard Burge and Murray Gordon provide a unique

blend of talent and expertise in the unique endeavor of bringing the finest of Mexican home furnishings to you. McCleary started the business in 1995 and its instant popularity led to a business partnership with Burge and Gordon.

Expansion became a necessity. Their Walnut Creek store is the sixth location they have opened up to accommodate a large inventory to meet an ever growing customer demand. "Our stores are very large by necessity, because Iguana is a direct importer with no distributors or middlemen to add to our retail prices," says Burge. "Even after transportation costs, customs and other import fees, Iguana's products are generally priced at below what can be found in stores in Mexico." "The result is an enormous selection at the lowest prices in America."

What you can expect to find at Iguana Ameramex is a huge selection with a focus on traditional Mexican styling and quality. The many colors, textures and even the music instantly transport the shopper to Mexico. "Our stores have huge inventories of furniture, pottery, ceramics, hand-blown glassware, wrought iron, folk art and unique decorative items for the home," says Burge. "It borders on sensory overload!"

Now only in its fourth year, Iguana has under-

BUSINESS FOCUS

by Laura Fischer

gone rapid growth in a niche business that provides consumers with an alternative to traditional home decorating with an ever changing selection that encourages individualism. Burge feels further expansion is a sure thing. "We expect Iguana to continue to grow and become the dominant force in the United States for Mexican home decorating products," he says. "Iguana Ameramex is determined to be considered the most exciting and interesting store our customers have ever seen."

Located at 301 Jefferson St., Oakland, (510) 834-5848, fax: (510) 834-5849, 1613 Main St., Walnut Creek, (925) 935-7020, fax: (925) 935-7049. iguana-mexico.com

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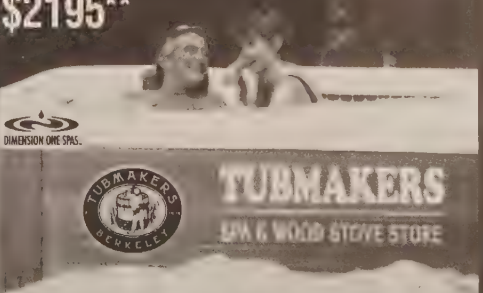
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Engine

FROM PAGE A1

his heart.

Wearing greasy coveralls and an engineer's cap, Wilson climbs into the large brick-lined fire box section of the boiler of the engine and points to this and that. In the redwood-lined cab, Wilson turns valves and handles, explaining what each does.

There are valve handles, knobs and levers, which are labeled with names like "atomizer" and "blow back" and "steam heat." One gauge with a view window and marker reads: "To insure



PIEDMONT'S George Childs scrubs the floor of No. 2467's caboose.

safety on max grades water must not fall below this level."

Wilson shows a visitor how the throttle works, how to sound the whistle and where the fireman sits across from the engineer in the cab. He seems to take joy in the oversized scale of the locomotive, its parts and the tools used to work on it. "They built these things to last — everything is always made real big and heavy," Wilson said.

No. 2467 is owned by the city of Oakland and is leased to the PLA. The PLA, founded in 1961 and organized as a non-profit corporation in 1965, operates the Niles Canyon Railway between Sunol and Niles and survives on donations received for its Niles Canyon runs. Built in 1921 at the Baldwin Locomotive Works in Philadelphia, Pa., No. 2467 worked the rails until 1956.

According to 43-year-old boiler-maker Mike Russell of Richmond, a regular Project 2467 volunteer, the engine originally traveled the Southern Pacific overland route from Sparks, Nev., to Ogden, Utah.

Later, No. 2467 worked in the western division of Southern Pacific Lines; its jobs included hauling passengers and freight from Oakland to Sacramento and from San Francisco to Gilroy.

"It was in service for 35 years and they worked 'em hard," Russell said. "They were originally designed and built for passenger service between Ogden and Sparks," he added. "At the time it was one of the longest passenger runs in the country without changing engines — 532 miles," Russell said.

In 1960 No. 2467 became part of the small Harrison Railroad Park at the north end of the Alameda tube in Oakland. The engine languished in the elements and received minimal maintenance until 1988 when it was moved and finally wound up at its current location in 1993 in the charge of the PLA. Since then, members of Project 2467 have given the old engine the love and care it deserves and have worked to restore it to working order.

No. 2467 is big and black and greasy and heavy and requires a lot of attention. Its cast steel wheels are

taller than most people. The entire machine stands over 16 feet high. The mechanisms of its engine — the driving wheels, rods, pistons, cylinders, levers and other moving parts — can be seen as it sits on the tracks. The steam engine is like an "external combustion" engine Wilson noted — you see the moving, working, parts of the engine as it steams past you on the tracks. The engine and tender car weigh a combined 598,000 pounds and carry 12,000 gallons of water and 4,000 gallons of fuel oil.

As you stand beside the locomotive, the sheer bulk and dimensions of the thing make an impression. It seems very American and very solid and built before industry had even heard of the term "planned obsolescence." No. 2467 appears to have been built to serve for decades and decades, and decades more.

You begin to understand why some people are fascinated by steam engines and why, when they are bitten by the "steam bug," they are bitten for life. You begin to understand why people like Jimmie Rodgers, Johnny Cash and John Fogerty sing about trains and locomotives in so many of their songs. Just looking at No. 2467, you know it was built to traverse wide open spaces in Nevada and Utah, steaming towards an endless horizon, flying past sagebrush and pronghorn antelope, solid and sure under Great Basin skies.

"To this date, I know of no other machine, with as many interesting things as there are in this world. I know of nothing else that is like a steam locomotive," said Don McPherson of Oakland.

McPherson said that No. 2467 is "very close" to the ideal type of steam locomotive. No. 2467 is the right size and type of locomotive, "as opposed to smaller ones which have different type of valve gear or much larger ones that are moving factories that really lose their personality," McPherson contended. "There are many



MEMBERS OF THE Pacific Locomotives Association have volunteered their time to refurbish old No. 2467, a 1921 steam engine

steam locomotives that had that unique characteristic and the 2467 is amongst that group, in my opinion."

McPherson is in his mid-50s and works as a machinist, fabricating small parts during the week at his Oakland home and then fitting them onto No. 2467 on Saturdays. He was one of a small group that worked

daily on the locomotive in the weeks prior to the train fair run last month. He said some people attribute a personality to steam locomotives because of the way they move and sound.

"It doesn't have a personality, because it's nothing more than mostly steel — iron and steel. But it is the only machine to which you can attribute a personality," McPherson said. Piedmont resident George Childs became interested in model trains as a kid when his dad brought out his old Lionel Trains.

"Oftentimes, like me, you get interested in modeling after the real thing, so you go out and you start taking pictures of the real thing," Childs said to explain his love of trains. "Pretty soon you start looking at the real thing saying, 'I like that scale better than I do this little scale that I have at home.'"

Childs has been a member of PLA since 1961, is co-owner of a caboose car that was part of the Sacramento run last month, and is a regular volunteer at the Oakland work site. Childs said his usual weekend routine at the site is to "work on whatever needs to be worked on."

"I guess you gotta love machines — big machines — the older the better," said boiler-maker Russell to explain why he comes out most weekends to work on No. 2467 and why steam

trains fascinate people. "You'd really have to be in the cab of one or standing right next to the track as it goes by at some kind of speed" to really appreciate the steam train, Russell said.

"A diesel looks the same whether it's sitting still or going 100 miles per hour," said Wilson. "But this thing — you got all the rods and wheels flying around — there's steam and smoke coming out of it," he said. Engineer and Chief Mechanical Officer Ohman, of Pinole, said a steam train is "pure machinery."

"It's just in your blood," said 15-year-old El Cerrito High School student Rayan Steck-Bayat, who volunteers time on Project 2467. "You just basically gotta like the sound — you gotta like just the whole mechanics of steam engines."

Steck-Bayat has volunteered at the Oakland work site for the past three and a half years and helped get No. 2467 ready to travel to Sacramento last month. He was part of a small crew that spent the night prior to departure with the locomotive to watch the steam pressure and "make sure the fire was going right." Steck-Bayat said the process is "just like watching a pot boil basically, you just got to make sure the burner is going right and that the pressure is not going up too fast."

The crew doesn't know when No. 2467 will be taken out for another run.



EL CERRITO'S Brian Wilson, 22, is hard at work on a steam engine.

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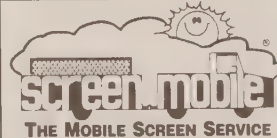
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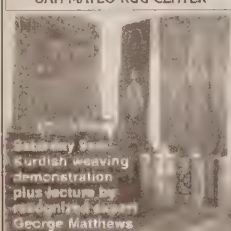
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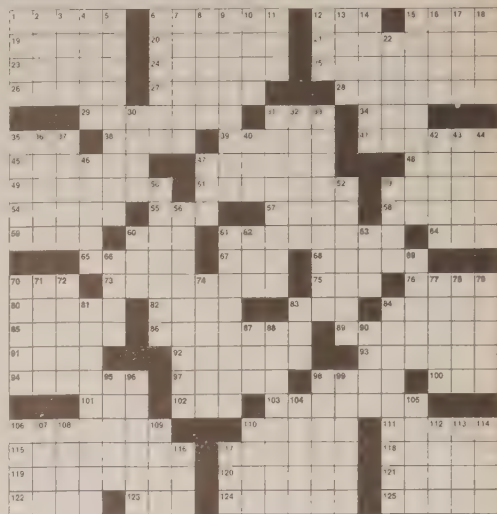
Calendar

NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE CROSSWORD PUZZLE

JUST FOR OPENERS

By NANCY NICHOLSON JOLINE / Edited by WILL SHORTZ

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Children

"Theater Rats," Julia Morgan's kid's theater camp program, offers swimming, singing, dancing, acting, and field games as some of its exciting activities. The camp is a two-week session for kids 6-14. Call 883-7023 for additional information.

Health

Volunteer as an Information and Resource/Referral Worker at the Berkeley Free Clinic. Help people find resources in the healthcare fields. Call 288-5813 for more information regarding July training.

YWCA Health and Community Education: drop in classes in dance, fitness, yoga, martial arts and more; University YWCA, 2600 Bancroft Way; 848-6370; \$8 - \$10.

Community

A day-long conference on the Native Shells of Berkeley and Emeryville will be held on Saturday, July 25 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Mountain Light Photography, 1466 66th St. in Emeryville to explore the archaeological, scientific, historic, cultural, and spiritual values of the two shellmounds. The conference is open to the public; there is a \$5 suggested donation fee, but no one will be turned away.

The North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst St. sponsors a Gilroy Garlic Festival Trip on July 23. The bus leaves the center at 9 p.m. The price is \$20, entry fee included. For more information call Maggie or Suzanne at 644-6107.

The Grand Opening of The New "F" and "G" Docks at the Berkeley Marina takes place on Saturday, July 24 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be ribbon cutting, dock walking, musical entertainment. Hot dogs and veggie burgers will be available. The new F and G Docks are the first in Northern California to offer a ramp that complies with requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. For more information contact Cliff Marchetti, Waterfront Manager, 644-6376 ext. 224.

The University of California Botanical Garden announces extended hours for the summer, continuing through Labor Day, Sept. 6. During this period the garden will be open from 9 a.m. until 7 p.m. every day. Summer hours offer the opportunity to relax in the Garden after work, and to enjoy a picnic supper on the lawn or in the Redwood Grove. Plan some quiet time to take advantage of the soft evening light and the magnificent site. The Botanical Garden is located on Centennial Drive in Strawberry Canyon behind the Memorial Stadium. Call 643-2755 for more information or directions.

The Anna Davidson Rosenberg Award for Poems on the Jewish Experience announces its 1999 competition. Sponsored by the Jewish Museum, it is the only major nationwide/international competition for unpublished poetry in English on the Jewish experience. Writers should first send a self-addressed stamped envelope

for entry form and guidelines by July 31, to Poetry Award, Judah Magnes Museum, 2911 Russell St., Berkeley, CA 94705.

Toastmasters, do it now. Stand up and say what you mean. Come practice—Tuesday, noon to 1 p.m. at 700 Heinz Ave. Call 883-6708 for additional information.

Civil Rights activists needed. Write the ACLU chapter of Berkeley, Albany, Richmond, and Kensington. P.O. Box 11141, Berkeley, CA, 94701.

The City of El Cerrito is accepting job applications for 1999 Summer Employment, day camp and pool staff positions. Ages 15 plus (must have job permit if under 18) Ages 12 + for volunteers. Applications may be picked up at the El Cerrito Community Center, 7007 Mooser Lane, Monday through Friday,

from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. For information call 215-4370.

"Work Buddies" volunteers needed to perform volunteer work with people in early stage Alzheimer's Disease. Minimum six-month commitment, two to three hours per week. Training provided. Contact Nanette Lipton, 644-8292.

Psychic Healing clinic: 7 to 9 p.m. Mondays, free clinic at the Academy for Psychic Studies in Berkeley, aura cleansing, stress relief. 1-800-642-9355.

SMART project: the Alcohol Research Group in Berkeley is conducting a study to compare the cost and effectiveness of two kinds of substance abuse day treatment: medical model day treatment and social model day treatment. By calling 1-888-249-8802 and agreeing to do three interviews, individuals chosen for the study receive free treatment at existing treatment programs

The Edible Schoolyard, an organic gardening and cooking program at Berkeley's King Middle School, seeks volunteers to work with students, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Call 558-1035 for information.

English-in-Action lets you make friends from around the world. Volunteer as a conversational partner with a foreign UC scholar/student for one hour a week. YWCA, at Berkeley, Call 843-9716.

Women's Daytime Drop-In Center in Berkeley, serving women who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, needs volunteers. The Center is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Volunteers are needed for morning and afternoon shifts. For more information, call 466-5663.

Exhibits

An exhibit of "Artists in Support of Affordable Housing"

holds a special Closing Night Reception on Tuesday evening, July 27 between 6 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. in front of the Addison Street Windows Gallery at 2018 Addison St. The windows, between Shattuck Avenue and Milvia Street were one of the first components of the Berkeley Art District. Call 841-4410 for additional information.

"Food for Thought," an exhibit of drawings and paintings by Raul Serrano continues at the French Hotel Gallery, 1528 Shattuck Ave., through July. The gallery is open from 7 a.m.-10 p.m. daily.

Alta Bates Medical Center presents work by members of the California Watercolor Association at its Community

See CALENDAR, Page A14

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Calendar

FROM PAGE A13

Art Gallery, 2450 Ashby Avenue, Berkeley. The gallery is in the main corridor to the left of the information desk and main entrance. Call 204-4444 for additional information.

The Richmond Art Center, 2540 Barrett Ave., presents a new exhibition that runs through Sept. 4. Gallery hours are Tuesday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and Saturday, noon-4:30 p.m. Free admission, wheelchair accessible. Call 620-6772 for additional information.

Roots and Memory: A Portrait of the Last Moroccan Jews of the Atlas and Sahara continues through Oct. 31 at the Judah Magnes Museum, 2911 Russell St. For additional information call 549-6950.

"Still Here: The Jews of the Pale of Settlement," — A photographic exhibition by Peggy Myers is on view through Oct. 31 at the Judah Magnes Museum, 2911 Russell St. For additional information call 620-6772.

A New Leaf Gallery, 1286 Gilman St., presents an exhibit, "Water Visions 1999," a contemporary water sculpture, which continues through Aug. 1. Gallery hours are Wednesday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 525-7621 for additional information.

Sticks Fine Art Gallery and Custom Picture Framing, 1579 Solano, presents the paintings of David Martin through July 29. Call 526-6603 for additional information.

The Albany Arts Committee exhibits "Facing Change," continues through Sept. 9 at the Albany Foyer Gallery, 1249 Mann Ave. The exhibit represents three eighth grade Albany Art classes led by art teacher Meg Brady.

The Berkeley Art Museum Pacific Film Archive presents "Emergent: New Work by UC-Berkeley Master of Fine Arts Graduates," through Aug. 15. Emergent is an exhibition of works by candidates for the Master of Fine Arts degree at UC-Berkeley. Artists include Nina Lynn Bellisio, Jason Byers, Sook Nim Choi, Elizabeth Demaray, Stephanie Anne Johnson, and Katherine Shozawa.

New Pieces Gallery presents a list of artists for the year 1999. Located on Solano Avenue, New Pieces is the only gallery which shows quilts and soft cloth sculptures and dolls exclusively. The gallery is open during store business hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday Noon to 5 p.m., except major holidays. Details: 527-6779

Literary Events

Author Wayne Muller will be at GAIA Bookstore and Community Center, 1400 Shattuck Ave., on Monday, July 19 at 7:30 p.m. His book "Sabbath: Remembering the Sacred Rhythm of Rest & Delight" proposes that we incorporate "Sabbath" days into our lives. Call 548-4172 for additional information.

"Daily Word" readers: Study Unit principles at Temescal Library, 5205 Telegraph, Wednesdays 12 to 1 p.m. Contact Anne Allen, 843-5611.

Author/photographer John Blaustein presents a slide presentation and talk on the Grand Canyon and his experiences running the Colorado River rapids. The event takes place on Thursday, July 22, 7:30 p.m. at the Easy Going Travel Shop and Bookstore, 1385 Shattuck Ave. Call 843-3533 for additional information.

Susan Page will conduct a writers workshop at GAIA Bookstore and Com-

munity Center, 1400 Shattuck Ave., on Saturday, July 24 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The workshop focuses on writers getting published and marketing their material. The price is \$35. Call 548-4178 for additional information.

The Other Change of Hobbit, 2020 Shattuck Ave., presents Amy Thomson, author of "Virtual Girl" and the "Color of Distance," reading and signing her new book "Through Alien Eyes," on Thursday, July 29, 8 p.m. to 8 p.m. For additional information call 848-0413.

"Strong Women: Writers and Heroes of American Literature," 1:15 to 3:15 p.m. every Thursday, free course in the Berkeley Adult School Older Adults Program: Helen Ripper Wheeler, instructor; North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst, corner of Martin Luther King, Jr. Way; 549-2970 after 9 a.m.

Meetings

The Alta Bates Rehabilitation Center and East Bay Neurology continues with its Stroke Support Group meetings. The next meeting takes place on Tuesday, Aug. 3 from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the Herrick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way. For directions or more information, call 204-4503.

Joy of Yiddish: Yiddish conversation at 1 p.m. at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst. Call 644-6107 for additional information.

The Berkeley Communicators Toastmasters Club meet on the first and third Wednesday of the month from 7:15 to 8:30 a.m. at the Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant. Details: 524-3765.

The Berkeley Arthritis Support and Education Group meets on the second Tuesday of each month (except December) 1 to 2:30 p.m. in the Maffei Auditorium, Herrick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way. Dr. Brian Kaye, a rheumatologist, has treated many patients with various types of arthritis and will be available for questions. For additional information call 204-4503.

Toastmasters on Campus meet the second and fourth Wednesday of the month from 6:15 to 7:30 p.m. at the English Language Program Building, 2515 Hillegass. Details: 704-1822.

Public speaking skills and meta- physics come together at Avatar Metaphysical Toastmasters. On-going meetings first and third Thursdays, 6:15 to 7:30 p.m., 2515 Hillegass Ave., Call 869-2547 for details.

Spirituality and Healing. Voices of Healing Story Circles. Spiritually oriented healing group for people living with life-threatening illness. Meets second Wednesday of each month in North Berkeley. Call 528-1235 for information.

State Health Toastmasters Club meet every second, third and fourth Thursday of the month from 12:10 to 1:10 p.m. at the State Health building, 2151 Berkeley Way. Details: 649-7750.

Higher Alignment; 7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Mondays; fun, informative seminars creating spiritual partnerships; Feldenkrais Center, 830 Bancroft Way, Berkeley; (415) 461-5337; 320.

Alta Bates Support Groups - Arthritis Support Group meets the second Tuesday of every month, 1 - 2:30 p.m., 204-4503. Call for additional special events.

Overeaters Anonymous, a 12 step program providing free aid for those with eating problems, meets in Berkeley every Saturday at 8:30 a.m. (newcomers at 8 a.m.) at St. John's Church, 2727 College Ave. and in Richmond every Thursday at 7 p.m. at Kaiser Hospital, 901 Nevin (take Elevator C to the third floor). For further information, call 273-9292.

TOPS, 9:30 a.m., Mondays; Take Pounds Off Sensibly, Albany Chapter meets at 980 Stannage St. at Marin; 233-2948 or Karen, 525-6858.

Avatar Metaphysical Toastmasters,

meetings on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month from 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Call 643-7645.

Toastmasters, noon - 1 p.m. Tuesdays; stand up and say what you mean; practice with the toastmasters; 700 Heinz Ave., Berkeley; 883-6708.

Alta Bates Rehabilitation Center and East Bay Neurology sponsors a free monthly stroke support group. No advance reservations are required, drop-in anytime. The group meets the first Tuesday of each month from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Maffei Auditorium on Herrick Campus, 2001 Dwight Way, Berkeley. Details: 204-4503.

Strong Women-Writers and Heroes of American Literature meet on Thursdays from 1:15 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. at the North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst. This is a free course in the Berkeley Adult School Older Adults Program. For additional information call 549-2970.

Music

Violist Jacob Hansen-Joseph, a senior at The Juilliard School, and mezzo soprano Jennifer Rivera, a Young Artist in the Juilliard Opera Center present a benefit recital on Saturday, July 31 at 8 p.m. at St. John's Presbyterian Church in Berkeley. Tickets are \$15. Available at the door. For additional information call 524-3341.

The La Pena Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., presents a concert: Peru Independence Day Celebration on Friday, July 23 at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 advance, \$12 at the door. Call 849-2568 for additional information.

The World Vision Youth Ambassadors, a group of young people, age 16-22, representing 50 nations, perform a free concert in the Berkeley. The performance takes place on Thursday, July 22, 7:30 at the First Presbyterian Church, 2407 Dana St., Berkeley. The concert features music, dance and drama from around the world. World Vision is the largest privately funded Christian humanitarian agency in the world, serving more than 70 million people in nearly 100 countries. For ticket information, call 626-303-8811 ext. 7832.

The South Berkeley Neighborhood Development Corporation presents "Jazz on a Sunday Afternoon" with the G. Taft Gettys' Trio and the Benjamin Ball Trio, on Sunday, July 25, 5 p.m. at the Black Repertory Group, 3201 Adeline St. A pre-performance social takes place at 4 p.m. Donation: \$20. For additional information call 652-2178 or 841-0392.

"Friday Night Folk Dancing 8 p.m. - 11 p.m.; no partners necessary for line dances taught from Rumania, Bulgaria, Israel, Turkey, Near East and other lands each Friday from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m., followed by request dances from 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. No experience necessary - all ages welcome. Albany YMCA, 901 Kains Ave.; \$4; call 525-1542.

Outdoors

East Bay Regional Parks Botanical Garden Tilden Park, presents regular tours, seven days a week. Week days 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays, and Sundays 2 p.m. Special tours by appointment. Call 841-8732. For a schedule of upcoming classes call 925-820-1021.

Support

Stroke Support Group for Stroke survivors, their families and friends. No advance reservations required. Meets the first Tuesday of each month, 4 p.m. to 5 p.m., Maffei Auditorium, Herrick Campus, 2001

Dwight Way

Lecture/Workshop

The YWCA offers free orientations of its Turning Point Career Center. The orientations outline the resources available to the public as well as the different programs the center offers, including the great variety of workshops. The orientations are held every Tuesday at 1:30 p.m. The Center is located at 2600 Bancroft Way, Berkeley. For more information call 848-6370.

"What is Meditation," is a peaceful and practical introduction to the basics of meditation. The free seminar takes place at Barnes and Noble Booksellers, 2352 Shattuck Ave. Pragite Dove is the facilitator. Call 64-0861 for additional information.

Emotions Anonymous: Twelve-Step meetings every Sunday at 8 p.m. Call 238-8226 for Berkeley location.

Religion

The Nyngma Institute sponsors a discussion of the direct and practical approach to meditation found in Tarthang Tulku's "Gesture of Balance." Bob Byre, who has practiced meditation under Tarthang Tulku's direction since 1969, discusses how "Gesture of Balance" can bring the benefits of meditation into your life.

Theater, Dance & Film

The North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst, presents the film documentary: "The Voyager Odyssey 1977-1989 Inter Planetary Flybys on Thursday, July 22. The opera "Lucia D. Lammermoor" will be shown on July 23. Both films begin at 1 p.m. For more information call Maggie de Suzanne at 644-6107.

Black Repertory Group, 3201 Adeline St., presents "Steal Away," a story of religious church women who bake cakes, cookies, pies and breads to send young women through college and the desperate measures the women take when they need more money. The performance continues through July 31. Showtimes are Thursdays, through Saturdays, 8 p.m. and a 2:30 matinee Saturday. General tickets: \$12, students \$8, child \$5, seniors \$3. For additional information call 652-2120.

Winning Photos: First Annual Richard Nagler Photography competition of the Judah Magnes Museum highlights images by 15 extraordinary photographers. The Magnes Museum's new competition encourages Jewish work in contemporary art forms. The exhibit continues through Oct. 31. Call 549-6950.

Swing Dance Classes! Learn East coast swing and Lindy Hop with Michael and Persephone of Shagtime Dance Instruction, on Mondays at the Work Studio, 2566 Telegraph Ave. Beginning Lindy Hop runs 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. East Coast Swing from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. and beginning Lindy Hop 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays, at The Beat, 2560 Ninth St. Classes run as a monthly series. For more information, call Michael Marangio at 528-7858.

The UC-Berkeley, Berkeley Art Museum, 2626 Bancroft Way, continues its exhibit "Show and Tell: A Selected History of Photography and Video," through July 31. The exhibit is a selective survey of the history of photography and of early video art. For further information on this or any other museum programs call 642-0808.

If you sign up for the event, no names please

National Scrabble Association tournament comes to Oakland this weekend

By Corey Lyons

Quixotic. Quibble. Xylophone. Xylen. Zeal.

Ah, the sweet language of Scrabble nirvana.

Fledgling wordsmiths and aspiring national champions will meet Sunday, July 25, in Oakland to compete in the mother of all word games, Scrabble.

The six-round tournament, which is being held at the Village Restaurant, is one of about 150 held nationwide each year. It is sanctioned by the National Scrabble Association.

The event, in which novices and masters compete in different divisions, is the smallest of the NSA competitions.

Regional contests are held annually, while national title matches and world championships are rotated every two years.

The Bay Area has become a kind of breeding ground for Scrabble masters, says John D. Williams Jr., the NSA's executive director.

"The Bay Area is a very hot Scrabble spot," Williams Jr. says via telephone from his office in Greenport, N.Y.

"There are a lot of smart, cool people there. It has become a hotbed of intellectual pursuit and open-minded thinking, and it's where some of the best Scrabble players in the country live."

Ranked among the top 10 Scrabble players in the country is Oakland resident Lester Schonbrum. The 63-year-old word wizard just competed in the Western Scrabble Championships in Reno on July 11.

Schonbrum is one of 13 lucky players across the nation who will compete for the World Championship in November in Australia.

Will he be humble enough to show up Sunday at the Village Restaurant? "I don't know," he says. "I just got back from Reno. I haven't

decided yet."

The local tournament is a far cry from the all-star and regional Scrabble events. In this contest, the top each division — there are many as five — is only a

National contest. In hand, offer \$25,000 cash winners, Williams Jr.

Still, a smaller event comes a chance to compete assuming the pressure of a scale contest. It also gives an opportunity to newcomers.

"I've played all my Berkeley resident friends will compete in Oakland competitive person. And be good at something."

"In this game, there's strategy and word play. It's always nice to win a bizarre word on someone get challenged for it."

About 100 players are to show up for the Oakland event.

There will be six rounds to-head competition; the best the best record in his or is declared the winner. He limited to 25 minutes.

To Ward, 39, a good player must have over sense," and an innate ability to produce several words in one fore making a move.

Of course, it doesn't hurt few Zs on a triple-word.

But come Sunday, the est obstacle may be Leroy Foster City man who finished at the Reno event. He expected to compete in Oakland.

"He has a large vocabulary," says of Lerman, before "Well, it's hardly a voice cause we seldom use the normal conversation good with words — left it that."

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Minneapolis.....	\$123	San Antonio.....	\$82
Orlando.....	\$103	Chicago.....	\$103
Cleveland.....	\$82	Toronto, CAN.....	\$159
Philadelphia.....	\$115	Tampa.....	\$124
Boston.....	\$154	Detroit.....	\$114
Houston.....	\$82	Cincinnati.....	\$186
Atlanta.....	\$169		

INTERNATIONAL

Sample Discounted Fares from San Francisco (Each Way Based Upon Round Trip Purchase)

DESTINATIONS		DESTINATIONS	
Milan.....	\$275	Madrid.....	\$400
Paris.....	\$382	Lisbon.....	\$408
London.....	\$335	Barcelona.....	\$400
Rome.....	\$275	Tel Aviv.....	\$472

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A treasure in the castle called Claremont

And his name is Al Henderson

By Corey Lyons

Inside the historic Claremont Resort and Spa, widely considered one of the finest retreats in the country, is a man who holds the eternal key to this famed hotel. His name is Al Henderson, and his devotion to the Claremont is unrivaled. For more than five decades the soft-spoken bartender has entertained thousands of distinct guests here, whether he was opening a door, setting a table or pouring

"(Bette Davis) was a smoker. And she smoked Phillip Morris Commanders, the same brand of cigarettes as me. She couldn't find them at the hotel. So I went off and got them for her myself. And we hit it off from there."

— Al Henderson

ing his trademark highball. A Claremont employee since World War II, the 70-year-old Berkeley man is the hotel's constant innkeeper. Which leads to the obvious question: Will this man ever let go? "When he feels that he is ready, I'm sure he'll say it," says Judy Mattson, who worked at the Claremont for 41 years until a back injury forced her out. "But I don't know what he'd do without the work. It's been engrained in him." "Let's put it this way: The guy can still remember somebody's drink from 30 years ago," says Reginald Stone, the Claremont's head doorman. "He's still got it." Indeed he does. In fact, when Henderson is informed that a visitor has come to see him, his mind immediately wanders to the pool area, where he needs to set up a banquet. Who's going to set up the banquet if he is tied up in idle conversation?

sation? At age 70, Henderson refuses preferential treatment. "He's a jewel and an institution," says Sarah Gabrieli, the hotel's director of marketing. On this day, she finds a temporary replacement for the busy bartender. An impeccably dressed man with a neat mustache, Henderson sits stiffly in a chair inside an executive office boardroom. His gold name badge reads, "AL HENDERSON HEAD BARTENDER." One gets the sense that he is honored to wear it, like a firefighter or a police officer. "It's always a pleasure to come to work," he says. "I hear people complain. Well, I never complain. A lot of people take other jobs, and I say 'OK. Good luck.' And then I see them come back. They don't listen to me—this is the best place to work."

The Chicago native earned his first job at the Claremont at age 15, preparing salads for dinner guests inside the hotel's vast kitchen. He'd peel potatoes, chop lettuce, crush a few croutons. It was 1944, and Henderson had taken advantage of a generous job market, left wide open because of the war.

He'd bike to work each day from the Berkeley home he shared with his widowed mother, Billie. The resolute teen-ager impressed staff so much that he was transferred to the dining room within two weeks.

And thus began Henderson's beguiling odyssey through this sprawling, 279-room resort.

From the dining room, he ventured to the employee's cafeteria, then to room service.

Ever try to accommodate 260 people for room service breakfast? Henderson did.

"Of course, there was also lunch and dinner," he says, smiling.

For about five years he was a Claremont wine steward, selling top California bottles for \$1.75 apiece during posh dinner dances at which Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington and other jazz greats performed.

After that he became manager of a new upstairs restaurant called the Prime Rib Room, which opened in the mid-1960s. The eatery delighted guests with hand-carved meats procured from stainless steel serving carts.

During these years, he rubbed elbows with all types of celebrities: John Wayne, Mickey Rooney, Merv



HEAD BARTENDER Al Henderson is a living part of the history of the great Claremont Resort and Spa.

Griffin, Clint Eastwood and Bette Davis.

"She was a smoker," Henderson says of Davis. "And she smoked Phillip Morris Commanders, the same brand of cigarettes as me. She couldn't find them at the hotel. So I went off and got them for her myself. And we hit it off from there."

By early 1971, Henderson had become the hotel's top bar manager, a title he would hold for more than 15 years.

Some shifts began at 9 a.m. and ended at 2 a.m. But all the while,

the sleepy-eyed barkeeper was mindful of his work.

A leftover bottle of wine was never overlooked; Henderson would send it into the kitchen so the cooks could use it for meals. And expensive alcohol that would otherwise be thrown out would be rescued for reuse.

"He is the best manager ever," says Mannie Martinez, who has known Henderson for three decades and still works part-time for him.

"He treats people today with such courtesy and he is so incredibly

efficient. He's a saint," says Henderson.

Henderson became the head bartender about six years ago. But when the Claremont was purchased by KSL Recreation Corp. in April 1998, a new bar manager was hired and Henderson got relief.

Still, he manages a nine-member bartender team at the Terrace Bar and Jordan's, the hotel's four-diamond signature restaurant.

Henderson, who has been happily married to Trudy for more than 50 years, does not yet embrace the R-word.

"As long as they let me work, I'm going to stick it out," he says.

Occasionally, he will relieve his bartenders for 30-minute breaks and pour the drinks himself. Sometimes a married couple celebrating their 50th anniversary will stop by and ask for the man who served them their first drink here.

To their astonishment, Henderson will emerge from a long hallway, with his hand outstretched.

"When they come back they always ask for me," he says. "They always ask if I'm still around and that makes me feel good."

Claremont Resort and Spa has a 'checkered' past

A high-stakes game of checkers determines ownership of a valuable plot of land

By Corey Lyons

It's all fun and games until somebody loses a prime piece of Bay Area real estate in a game of checkers.

Alas, that's what happened one evening inside the Athenian Club in Oakland when three determined men met for a high-stakes game of checkers.

Frank Havens emerged as the lucky winner.

His prize? The entire property on which the famous Claremont Resort and Spa would be built in 1915.

Celebrated architect Frank Lloyd Wright, called the Claremont

STRIKING SPA

What: Claremont Resort and Spa

Where: 41 Tunnel Road, Berkeley

Year built: 1915

Rooms: 279

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Today the 279-room Bay Area landmark is considered one of the most charming day spa resorts in

the country.

Surrounded by eucalyptus trees and offering a spectacular view of the San Francisco Bay, the Claremont is a sprawling sanctuary for thousands of guests each year.

The famed hotel, which straddles the Berkeley-Oakland border on Tunnel Road, is much more than a giant lodge. It's also a day spa, a private health club, a swing jazz joint, and the East Bay's lone four-diamond restaurant.

The resort continues to grow. Two years ago, the Claremont added 40 new suites—called the Grande Bay View Rooms—during a \$6 million expansion effort.

Each Grand Bay View room, at

\$335 per night, includes a 25-inch TV, a VCR, a CD player, an honor bar, custom-made furniture and a marble bathroom. And, well, a nice view of San Francisco's celebrated skyline.

The other rooms—furnished with safes, hair dryers, coffee makers and voice mail service—aren't bad either.

In 1988-1990, the hotel underwent \$15 million in improvements, which helped restore much of its original splendor.

And in 1989, investors poured another \$6 million into the site, adding an authentic European-style fitness center and beauty spa. Specialists from nutritionists to massage therapists were hired from all over the world.

In addition to a 2,500 square-foot fitness center and 10 outdoor tennis courts, the Claremont features three eateries, including Jordan's, its signature restaurant. At the turn of the century, this pristine site in the Oakland and Berkeley hills looked much different. It housed an English-style castle, which burned to the ground in July 1901.

Bill Thornburg, a Kansas farmer who struck it rich during the Gold Rush, had built the house for his wife on his 13,000 acres there.

Shortly after his wife died, the dejected farmer sold the property to the Ballard family.

The property then fell into the hands of Frank Havens and "Borax" Smith, a wealthy miner, who had aspirations of building a resort hotel.

One evening Havens, Smith and John Spring, a Berkeley capitalist, decided to meet in Oakland for the decisive game of checkers to determine the resort's lone owner.

Of course, Havens won and began building the hotel in 1906; the devastating San Francisco Earthquake that April halted construction for several years.

By 1910, Havens teamed up with Eric Lindblom and the massive Mediterranean lodge was completed five years later.

Over the years, it has hosted scores of business conventions, jazz concerts and celebrity tennis tournaments.

It has earned a distinct reputation as one of the Bay Area's most prized institutions.

KSL Recreation Corp., a La Quinta-based company which owns landmark resorts and golf courses across the country, purchased the Claremont in April, 1998.

Celebrated architect Frank Lloyd Wright, called the Claremont "One of the few hotels in the world with warmth, character and charm."

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THE CLAREMONT Resort was called, "One of the few hotels in the world with warmth, character and charm," by celebrated architect Frank Lloyd Wright.

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SPORTS

VJ

July 22, 1999

Section B

Baseball Albany juniors finish season against Walnut Creek [B2]

Arts Local theaters embrace musical revival [B3]

In the Game

By Peter Mentor

Bleachers hold their own charm

Two hours before the start of the game was just about right for finding the best seats in the house — for a price.

The bleachers, or what used to be the bleachers at the old Oakland Coliseum, are now comfy seats at the Network Associates Coliseum.

Get off the BART train, walk across the foot bridge and you're there at the ticket window to baseball heaven.

Five bucks gets you in the door, and it's only a few steps down to these choice seats that are right up against the field.

I met my brother Will and his daughter Madalyn to watch the first

As the credit card commercial says: the tickets were \$5; the food, \$25; the memories — priceless.

game of the A's-Giants series in the two teams' return from the All-Star break. Will and Madalyn are from the midwest, where they are used to watching Mark McGwire belt home runs out of Busch Stadium.

McGwire used to do it here at the Coliseum, but no more. On this night, however, there would be no shortage of homers. In fact, there were five 3-run home runs in game the A's ended up winning 11-9 on their last at bat with two outs in the ninth inning on a three-run dinger by rookie Olmedo Saenz.

But the fun of the bleachers began way before the lineups were announced for the night.

It was a sunny afternoon that would turn into a chilly evening. The A's were in batting practice and fans were watching as balls flew closer and closer and then finally flew out of the fenced ring around the stadium.

This was not your usual game, because of the interleague competition. A's fans and Giants fans were mixed among the bleacher seats, many of them wearing their team's colors and logos.

Gloves hanging from their arms, many of the fans from both teams were trying to get a ball. The odds of catching a batting practice home run were

See MENTOR, Page B2

Jimi James is crankin' out the hits

Oldest college baseball player makes the most of his athletic and music talents

By Mike McGreehan

Sports and music come together in many ways. Whether we're speaking of an NFL Films soundtrack or rock 'n' roll through a stadium loudspeaker, the two complement each other nicely.

Heck, even an organ rendition of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" sounds good during a lull in the action.

But the blending of sports and music often takes different twists. Rod Stewart and Julio Iglesias both left behind promising soccer careers for music. Orlando Cepeda put his musical ambitions aside for baseball.

Having two careers going at the same time just doesn't work.

El Cerrito resident Jimi James hopes to enjoy the best of both worlds, though. For James, life is a blend of country-and-

western, rock, blues, jazz and baseball.

James, now 48, has played music professionally since he was 13. He played guitar in John Lee Hooker's Coast-to-Coast Blues Band in the mid-1970s and has led his own band — or bands — since 1980. Until recently, he also organized his own semipro baseball team.

James can also be found in the Guinness Book of World Records and Ripley's Believe It or Not. That's because he became the oldest known college baseball player when he suited up for Contra Costa College earlier this year.

"I just wanted to see if I could make the team," he said. "I wanted to see if I could play college baseball at my age. It was very, very challenging, believe me."

James came to bat four times during

See JAMES, Page B2



JIMI JAMES wears his trademark cowboy hat when he's not playing baseball. He plans to put out a music CD in the near future.



JAMES, above, outfitted in his Contra Costa College uniform and, right, in front of his wall of fame.



Chernicoff tosses another no-hitter

Albany pitcher blanks Clayton Valley

By Scott Strain

David Chernicoff got by with a little help from his friends.

Ignoring a little stiffness in his shoulder and utilizing an excellent fast ball and a sharp breaking pitch, Chernicoff threw his second no-hitter of the season — and it was a big one, a 2-0 victory over Clayton Valley in the District 4 International Tournament Monday afternoon at Memorial Park.

Chernicoff used a variety of pitches to throw his masterpiece, but threw very few of them, just under 80 by one count.

He needed a couple of good plays from third baseman Doug Fisch and also capitalized on some shoddy base running by Clayton Valley. Twice after walks, Chernicoff used his deceptive pick off move to catch Clayton Valley runners leaning the wrong way.

Clayton Valley had just six base runners. Although Chernicoff walked five,

two were picked off. He struck out seven. Other than that, he relied on his defense, which only made one error behind him.

"The defense did great; I can't give it enough credit," Chernicoff said. "They made some plays that helped me out."

Third baseman Doug Fisch and shortstop Matt Ball made a couple of fine plays behind Chernicoff. Fisch made two putouts in the fifth inning and Ball made a good throw to nab Brett Ballard for the first out in the seventh. After walking Sam Ray, Chernicoff struck out Troy Sand and Nick Stoiber to end the game with a flourish.

There weren't many tough chances for Chernicoff. Fisch let a bunt attempt roll foul in the first inning and Sand lashed a ball just foul down the left-field line in the sixth.

Clayton Valley coaches argued that Fisch touched the ball before it went into

See CHERNICOFF, Page B2

Roberts rips it up at UCP Classic

El Cerrito star scores three touchdowns as player of the game in charity event

By Mike McGreehan

Terrell Roberts hoped to put a finishing touch on his prep football career. At Diablo Valley College last Saturday night, he did just that.

Roberts ran for three touchdowns and intercepted a pass as the Contra Costa County All-Stars defeated their Alameda County counterparts 35-7 in the 34th annual Times-United Cerebral Palsy All-Star Football Classic.

For his efforts, the recent El Cerrito High School graduate was named Contra Costa's offensive player of the game by the writers in attendance.

"Today, I was fortunate to have a second chance to prove myself, because in my last high school game I had an ankle injury," said Roberts. "I've been fortunate to play with a great coach and some great teammates."

Roberts scored the first of his touchdowns, a 3-yard run, with 4:40 left in the first quarter.

Roberts made it 14-0 when he ran 38 yards on a fourth-and-1 play with 26 seconds left in the quarter.

Roberts completed his touchdown hat trick on an 8-yard run with 5:57 left in the half.

But Roberts' big night wasn't finished. Alameda was driving in the closing seconds of the half when Roberts picked off a pass at his own 9-yard line and ran the ball back 26 yards to the 35. The half ended one play later.

Overall, the game represented a transition for Roberts. His three touchdowns were a fitting good-bye to his high school career and his interception a preview to what lies ahead in college.

See ROBERTS, Page B2

Alameda is run over by Contra Costa

Two-year winning streak snapped in 35-7 drubbing

Staff report

PLEASANT HILL — The Alameda Country All-Stars found themselves walking the wrong way down a one-way street at the 34th annual United Cerebral Palsy All-Star Classic Saturday night.

Alameda had to avoid the path of Contra Costa, which owned the road. Contra Costa easily snapped the two-time defending champions' winning streak in a 35-7 rout in front of 2,000 fans at Diablo Valley College.

Terrell Roberts, last year's re-

See GAME, Page B2

Albany juniors fall

By Scott Strain

The Albany Junior All-Star team's drive to stay alive came to an end Tuesday night in a 7-0 loss to Walnut Creek.

The loss, the second to Walnut Creek in five days, ended one of Albany's best teams in the junior division.

Albany needed to win four games in four days to advance past the District 4 International Tournament.

Manager Bob Hansen thought his team could do it, but Walnut Creek ended those hopes.

"I told them that they can get back into this thing," said Hansen after Albany defeated Clayton Valley 2-0 Monday afternoon on David Chernicoff's no-hitter.

An 8-2 loss to Walnut Creek on Friday dropped Albany into the loser's bracket and a 13-3 victory over Con-

cord Continental on Saturday sustained the team. Then came Chernicoff's big effort against a good-hitting Clayton Valley team and things were looking good.

Clayton Valley pitcher Jeff Choate pitched a good game, but it was his misfortune to be paired off against Chernicoff. Choate gave up seven hits, three of them to Ryan Bennett. For the most part, Choate worked out of his jams.

With one out in the second, Bennett slammed a double to center field and Mike Clement advanced him to third on a ground out. Louie Worth came up with the clutch hit, lining a ball directly over the first-base bag for a single that drove in Bennett.

It was a taunt contest, and the closeness of it helped Chernicoff stay focused. Always an intense pitcher, Chernicoff seemed to relish the tightness of the game, making the big

pitches when he needed them the most. The Albany offense was looking to give him some breathing room.

He got a little bit more of it in the fifth. With one out, Doug Fisch lined a single to right and went to second on a passed ball. Max Hayashi and Emanuel Mejia drew walks to load the bases. Chernicoff slashed a single to center, which scored Fisch, but Hansen, who was coaching third base, held Hayashi at third. Eddie Izumizaki flew out to right for the third out.

"He (Hayashi) wouldn't have made it," Hansen said. "The center fielder charged the ball and his arm was cocked when Max hit the third-base bag."

But it was enough. With Chernicoff throwing zeros in the hits category and in the runs category, Clayton Valley was finished. And Albany was still alive, at least for one more game against Walnut Creek.

Chernicoff

FROM PAGE B1

foul territory, but the ball hit fair and went foul before it reached the bag. Fisch said he never laid a glove on it. "It hit foul and I never touched it," he said, "and I didn't realize that he (Chernicoff) hadn't given up any hits. That made it a little easier."

Clayton Valley coaches, of course, had a different view of things. One of them came over to the scorer's table and asked if the umpiring crew was local. When told that they were from all over the area, one said "That's the worst umpiring we've had all year."

It was sour grapes. Umpiring didn't lose the game for Clayton Valley; its inability to hit Chernicoff did.

It wasn't the first no-hitter the right-hander had thrown this season; he got one in his first start against the Stars when he was pitching for the Oaks.

"That one finished in rain and hail," he said. "This one was a lot a better. It meant more."

"People were coming up to me in the sixth inning and telling me I had a no-hitter. You don't want to do that," he said with a laugh. "It felt good going out into the seventh. I walked the one guy but I never had doubt that I could do it. I didn't know if I would, but I knew I still had the arm left to take them down."

"Doug (Fisch) made a diving stop on a ball hit down the line and that was probably the hardest they hit me all day. There was a fly to center and a couple of hard grounders to short, but everything was gobbled up by my defense. My defense played great for me today."

Chernicoff didn't feel he made many mistakes; he got most of the pitches where he wanted them. That was the key, he said, to throwing a complete game or shutout. Or, in this

case, a no-hitter.

"You know, you can leave a fast ball up high or hang a few curves," he said. "I didn't leave any where they could rip them today and when I made a couple of little mistakes, they weren't able to capitalize because of the great back up I had behind me."

"There were a couple of pitches I didn't feel good about, and one of them was actually a swing and a miss. It was a fast ball and I thought I screwed that, but the guy was looking curve and he swung straight through it."

Even when Sand hit the smash down the third-base line that went foul, it didn't perturb Chernicoff. "Even if it went fair," he said, "it would have put runners on first and second and we still have a good chance to win the ball game."

"When I'm out there pitching I can't be thinking about not giving up hits, I have to think about getting outs." He got both on Monday.

James

FROM PAGE B1

the season. He collected one hit, a single, for a .250 average.

"The coach (Marvin Webb) told me that no matter how good I was, he had to play the kids to get them their college scholarships and professional contracts," said James.

James closed out his college baseball career on May 4 when the Comets faced Los Medanos College. He showed some talent on the baseball field earlier in his life. But he made a choice.

"I was really good when I was 12 or 13, then I quit," said James, who was still known as Jim Thorsen in those days. "I decided I wanted to be a professional musician rather than a professional baseball player."

James did not play baseball for the team at El Cerrito High School. After graduation in 1968, he became a self-described "hippie," complete with the beard and long hair.

The anti-sports mentality of the late '60s and early '70s distanced many young people of that era from the sports they loved while growing up. Sports had its place in the dominant culture, not the counterculture. And the times had some effect on James, too. But not to the extent of some of his peers.

"(The anti-sports sentiment) was part of it," he said. "But music was the main thing."

Though James loved his music, the baseball bug returned.

"When I got into my early 20s, I started missing it," he said. "I started playing with the Mill Valley Braves. That was my first semipro baseball team."

At 26, James formed his own semipro team, the El Cerrito Braves. Some years later, the team became known as the Jimi James Semipro Baseball Team.

But music still was his main focus. In 1980, James formed his own band. His father, known as Papa Walt, played fiddle in all the band's country gigs. The band appeared on local television shows and even had a minor hit in 1982 called "Texas Rag" that received considerable airtime in places like Gilroy and Auburn.

During the '80s, Papa Walt even appeared in commercials for Bartles and Jaymes Peach Cooler. Papa Walt died

in 1995.

As for James, another metamorphosis took place in 1984.

"I was at a restaurant at Lake Berryessa," James recalled. "The lady who took my order said, 'Give me your name.' I wrote, 'Jimi' or 'James.' She misread it and called out, 'Jimi James.' It was a nice stage name."

Thus Jim Thorsen moved to the background and Jimi James was born. Or, more accurately, another Jimi James was born. Unknown to James at the time was that "Jimi James" was a stage name once used by the late Jimi Hendrix.

"He was my idol," James said. "Hendrix was probably my biggest influence."

James' musical associations go beyond Hendrix, though. At Contra Costa College, he was the only member of the baseball team to have seen the Beatles live in concert. His teammates had been born long after the band broke up.

James had also played with some noted musicians during his career. In addition to John Lee Hooker, he has also worked with such notables as Norton Buffalo and Amos Garrett. A CD album that James hopes to release soon has Buffalo playing harmonica on one cut and Garrett, who played guitar on the 1974 Maria Muldaur hit, "Midnight at the Oasis," on another.

"I'm trying to get my CD out," says James. "I have to get the graphics and get the liner notes out, then I'm going to shop for a manager to get a record deal."

James' home is filled with memorabilia from both baseball and music. The walls of a hallway serve as a kind of scrapbook, filled with photos and clippings.

In the living room can be found the trophies: team trophies for winning the Stan Musial Winter League championship in 1991 and for winning the Western Baseball Association tournament year after year. Another team trophy honors "Los Indios," a championship team James played for in the Fernando Valenzuela League in 1983.

Accompanying these team trophies are a pair of individual ones. James hit .468 in 1978 the 1983 Fernando Valenzuela League batting title and .489 to win the Stan Musial Winter League batting title eight years later.

James first joined the Contra Costa College baseball team in 1995 at age

44. James went 4-for-14 with a .286 average. The following winter he played winter baseball for the Medanos, then made the College team again in 1996. He decided to sit out, and simply pinch hit.

As a member of the Jimi James played center field, tribute to another idol.

"I still have pretty good arms," James said. "I do isometrics."

To be eligible for the team, James had to be a freshman. That meant he had to come in hard enough, players said, to endure rigorous conditioning.

"They were tough," James said. "We would have to run 10 dashes in a row, then do 10 or four 60s, then several times after that we would practice. Sometimes after practice bases. I was winded, so my heart would be racing. Some of the young guys on it."

James' own exercises ably helped. He runs 10 miles every other day to keep in shape. He also keeps away from drugs and rarely touches alcohol.

To keep his batting eye sharp, James has had to back yard at considerable times this year. His pitching coach throw either fastballs or

Now that his college is complete, James has a semipro baseball team. He plays center field for the County Crushers over team, James is back to more heavily on his music.

He wants to put out as book gigs for his band acts, too. "I did nothing from August until May, so get my career in an open ball, one love for me."

Given his love for music, Terry Cashman-type. Cashman a baseball hopeful, wrote "Talkin' Baseball," in the dard song subjects.

"I never wrote a song ball, but we perform that song, 'Centerfield,'"

Maybe James couldn't ten a more appropriate

Mentor

FROM PAGE B1

slim, but constant asking of the fielders shagging the long flies was definitely doable.

"Hey Ben, throw me a ball," shouts one kid to A's outfielder Ben Grieve, looking for a freebie. "Come on Ben, I have your rookie card!"

Grieve ignores him, but a few fly balls later he finally throws one to the skinny kid with the glove. "That's four balls in three weeks," says the kid, putting it into his bag. The sign of a good bleacher fan is the ability to snag a ball.

It gets interesting when the Giants take the field for batting practice. "Hey Javier, you suck! Why don't you retire," yells one obvious A's fan at Giants outfielder Stan Javier. Later, when a ball comes to Javier, the same fan yells, "Javier, throw me the ball."

It doesn't make sense, but then half the fun of the bleachers is listening to the barbs thrown at players. On this day there are plenty of comments to go around for both teams. One guy's hero is another guy's hated rival in a Giants-A's game. And it's guys, not women, yelling and fighting for the free balls.

One man, in his late 40s, has a unique way of getting the balls that fall over the fence but are out of reach of the fans. He has a shoe box-sized contraption shaped like a shark cage, a roll of fishing line attached.

The box is tossed out and it swings back. He tosses it further and further until he can toss it by the ball. Then he tries, unsuccessfully, to snare it in the box.

Finally a security guard comes down and we're all thinking he's going to kick the guy out or at least yell at him.

The security guy says a grandfather told him his granddaughter dropped the ball into the pit from over the railing.

"Not true," says the guys with the cage, not exactly using those words, but this is a family newspaper. The security guard asks the bleacher faithful and they confirm the man's claim

that the ball was hit out of the park there by a player. The guard takes the ball and puts it into the cage and bleacher justice rules.

After batting practice I look at my watch. Still 90 minutes until the first pitch. Yikes!

This means one thing and one thing only — food. One of the beauties of sitting in the bleachers is the proximity to the food stands where most of the fans are not. Sausages outweigh the other food groups 5-to-1 out here in the hinterlands.

Madalyn and I go on a spree: chicken Caesar for my brother, pizza for her, and I break down and get a Polish with everything. Garlic fries to top it off and a huge Coke. This is my reason to live at a baseball game — a great game is enhanced, a slow game is endured with good food.

I need a malt for dessert, but that malt guy is so far away. Six sections at least. "He'll probably come over in the ninth inning," says Madalyn. Her prediction was pretty close.

Sitting in the bleachers behind us are two A's fans from Bishop O'Dowd High — aptly named Peter and Paul. They come to all the games in the bleachers, saying these seats are the best kept secrets. Too bad they were talking to me.

They are the good fans. So is the couple directly behind us from San Francisco, a man and a woman who know all the names of all the Giants players, even when their uniforms are covered up by jackets during batting practice.

Aside from the good fans, you take your chances in the bleachers. There is, of course, the obligatory obnoxious guy. He has one of those plastic blow horns from football games and he berates everyone, including players on both teams other fans, with stupid comments.

Obnoxious Guy makes your eyes roll and your ears hurt. He is warned twice by the security guard, but he is never kicked out. He's been through the routine before and he quiets down for a while before going back to being a jerk.

He was the one who made fun of Barry Bonds son. No class. So, as

bleacher bums will do, we off-handedly make fun of him. He hears this, but he is oblivious to our remarks.

It gets cold at night and no matter how warm you dress the cold creeps in. Hot cocoa and coffee don't do much and the game is 9-4.

We decide that if San Francisco scores again we go home. But the A's come back and the game turns out to be a classic.

Peter and Paul lend me a hat. Bleacher fans take care of each other. It's the late innings and I'm freezing and who shows up but the frozen malt guy.

"Malt guy, where you been?" I ask, more as a statement than anything. "You're my hero malt guy!"

I eat my malt, each frigid bite tasting better than the last. Baseball is not baseball without a malt.

The San Francisco fans behind us are worrying. They wanted a blowout and they were getting one, but now it's close.

On each A's run scored my brother is slapping hands with an A's fan who looks like a displaced snowboarder.

Finally it's the ninth inning and there two outs. Saez sends his shot into the bleachers and the crowd erupts.

The guy from San Francisco is distraught and Peter and Paul are high-fiving.

This was a good one. As the credit card commercial says: the tickets were \$5; the food, \$25; the memories — priceless.

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game.

I wish it would have turned out a little better than this," said Gordon, who will head to Cal Poly-San Luis Obispo this fall.

"It's good to come and see everybody one more time and it was a good benefit for cerebral palsy."

Roberts

FROM PAGE B1

"I plan on playing defensive back at Oregon State," he said. "I'm satisfied with defensive back. I love playing defense. I take pride in the interception."

Offensively, Roberts gained most of his 82 yards in the first half. He rarely touched the ball in the second half. He didn't need to — he had already proven what he could do.

Alameda passers combined to throw four interceptions. In addition to Roberts' pick, Justin Seely of Las Lomas pilfered three Alameda passes. Seely was named Contra Costa defensive player of the game.

David Moretti of Foothill was Alameda's defensive player of the game. Paki Gordon of St. Mary's was the Alameda offensive player of the

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Game

FROM PAGE B1

gion rushing champion in his senior season at El Cerrito High School,

scored three touchdowns and rushed for 80 of his 82 yards in the first half alone. Ronshay Jenkins, a De Anza product, had a game-high 115 yards and a fourth-quarter touchdown.

Contra Costa dominated Alameda's defense, gaining 333

rushing yards carries. Alameda, limited to half rushing yards, finished yards both in the air and ground. Paki Gordon of Alameda had a team-high 33 yards.

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Arts

Everybody's getting into the act

Musicals are hot and new again — at least that's what theaters hope



"GREASE," a wildly popular musical depicting the 1950s, ended its nine-day run at the Woodminster Amphitheater Sunday, July 18. "Guys & Dolls" begins Aug. 6.

By Pat Craig

Their names are familiar as those of friends. Harold Hill, Eliza Doolittle. We see them often enough. Henry Higgins, Nellie Forbush. In an area as theater-rich as this, you quickly become fast friends with the musical comedy legends.

Nathan Detroit, Dolly Levi. And don't forget Little Orphan Annie.

For the record, Harold Hill has waffled through the area on his 76 trombones at least three times this year. "Grease" skated through the Bay Area in April, and then it was boppin' in the redwoods at Woodminster. And next month Henry Higgins addresses the rain-in-Spinal problem at the Dean Lesher Regional Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek for the second time in less than two years.

So what we've got here is a bumper crop of old chestnuts, filling area theaters with the same old tunes endlessly?

Well, not exactly. At the same time others were watching "Brimstone," a new musical about the troubles in Northern Ireland, there was also a new revival of Jerry Herman songs, and a revival of the rarely seen "Applause." And in the coming season, local stages will revive "Zorba" (the musical of "Zorba the Greek"), present the Bay Area premiere of the musical version of "big" and take another look at the frothy "Anything Goes."

That song and dance

A growing number of theater

groups are discovering that musicals mean good business at the box office. So there are now more companies, such as Town Hall Theatre in Lafayette, producing musicals than ever before. The result is something of a double-edged sword — we are seeing many of the classic musicals repeated more than they might be in a less competitive area, but we are also seeing many more new or rediscovered musicals being produced by companies interested in presenting something different. And all of this will be done to the absolute delight of some theatergoers and the abject dismay of others.

There are those who find the best sound of music to be the sound of no music at all. But to most audience members — at least judged in terms of box-office success for local theatrical groups — there is no such thing as too many musicals, and for many of these people there is no such thing as too many productions of the half-dozen or so classic titles everyone can rattle off the tops of their heads.

"Some people want to see nothing but the old classics," says Pleasanton Playhouse board member John Baiocchi. "The reason why they sell is because they are a lot of fun. I don't really know which of the contemporary musicals are going to find an audience in the community theater arena. You really don't know what may or may not sell. So what we do is offer two big, well-known shows and then one that is a little out of the mainstream that may educate our audiences a bit."

NOW PLAYING ...

Here are some musicals playing in the area during the next several weeks:

- **"GUYS & DOLLS,"** Woodminster Amphitheater, Oakland, Aug. 6-15. Call 510-531-9597.
- **"MAKING MARY,"** world premiere, Galatean Players at the Dean Lesher Regional Center for the Arts, through Aug. 1. Call 925-943-SHOW.
- **"GUYS & DOLLS,"** Contra Costa Civic Theatre, El Cerrito, through Aug. 14. Call 510-524-9132.
- **"THE SOUND OF MUSIC,"** Pinole Community Players, Pinole, through July 24. Call 510-724-3669.
- **"THE MUSIC MAN,"** Pleasanton Playhouse, Pleasanton, July 23-Aug. 15. Call 925-462-2121.

It's a risky proposition, since even the smallest of musicals can cost well into five figures to produce, and mainstream audiences tend to resist the new and unfamiliar.

Often, though, there can be reward in risk, as Pinole Playhouse discovered when it produced "Pump Boys and Dinettes," one of the newer small musicals.

"We figured we were in some trouble because we found nobody had heard of it and we had to explain what it was, and when you have to explain, that's not good," says Patti Clark, one of the group's founders. "But after it opened, it was so much fun and the word of mouth was so good, it really got us going, and ended up one of our most successful shows."

The fact is, most audiences enjoy musicals. But with so many groups performing them, the trick is finding shows well-suited to your company.

"First of all, we never would attempt to compete with the likes of DLOC (Diablo Light Opera Company) and CCMT (Contra Costa

Musical Theatre) and do those fantastic, glorious, wonderful full-blown musicals," says AJ Van Reen, artistic director of Lafayette's Town Hall Theatre. "We have a more intimate theater, so the musicals we look for are ones that we feel fit that theater and fit that greater intimacy. So with 'Zorba,' it's not a big cast, but it's a big, lusty show, one of those things we look for to fill our niche."

Out with the old

Finding new material also helps attract local performers, many of whom are more than a bit tired of the same old stuff and are eager to try something that hasn't been done time and again. That's why many area theaters are going back to the books in search of hidden treasures from the past, or more risky, undiscovered gems from eager young composers.

At the Willows Theatre in Concord, producers Andrew Holtz and Richard Elliott receive 200 to 300 musicals a year from authors and composers eager to see their cre-

See MUSICALS, Page B2

An earful of information on 'Eyes Wide Shut'

"Eyes Wide Shut" crisis hotline, how may I help you?

Q: Yo, Does Nicole Kidman get nekkid, or what?

A: One would suspect a certain amount of flesh being revealed from the 6-foot Australian beauty, who recently exposed her backside on Broadway in a wildly popular production of "The Blue Room."

But don't expect the full monty; studio executives edited out some of the more explicit footage to prevent an NC-17 rating.

"Eyes Wide Shut" crisis hotline, how may I help you?

Q: Could we have called Stanley Kubrick the greatest living director before he died in March?

A: Yes.

"Eyes Wide Shut" crisis hotline, how may I help you?

Q: I'm a suburban mother of three lovely young children, and I was wondering if the film — a dizzying exhibit of psychosexual orgies, I understand — is appropriate for them?

A: No.

Lost Thoughts

By Corey Lyons

"Eyes Wide Shut" crisis hotline, how may I help you?

Q: What's up? Can you give me directions to the Brenden Concord 14?

A: You'll have to call information for that, sir.

"Eyes Wide Shut" crisis hotline, how may I help you?

Q: How long is the movie?

A: Don't insult me, friend. If one is to ask a lame question about the duration of a Stanley Kubrick film, one has obviously failed to appreciate the man's cinematic wizardry. About 145 minutes, schmuck.

"Eyes Wide Shut" crisis hotline, how may I help you?

Q: Aside from Cruise and Kidman, who else will appear in the movie?

A: Kenny from "South Park." He gets run over by a bus seconds into

the opening scene. Just kidding. Sydney Pollack, Todd Field, Marie Richardson, Tres Hanley, Vinessa Shaw and others.

"Eyes Wide Shut" crisis hotline, how may I help you?

Q: Who invented still photography?

A: Louis Jacques Mande Daguerre in 1839. But it was actually his business associate, Joseph Nicéphore Niepce, who made the first photographs in 1826. Of course, this has little to do with "Eyes Wide Shut." Take care.

"Eyes Wide Shut" crisis hotline, how may I help you?

Q: Is the film based on a novel?

A: Yes, it's based on a 1926 book by Arthur Schnitzler translated to "Rhapsody: A Dream Novel." It has not yet graced mandatory high school reading lists.

"Eyes Wide Shut" crisis hotline, how may I help you?

Q: What can you tell me about the orgy?

A: Tom Cruise, who plays medical doctor Bill Harford, stumbles across an orgy — as one often does — inside a mansion at which the guests wear masks and nothing more. That's all I can tell you.

"Eyes Wide Shut" crisis hotline, how may I help you?

Q: Name two of Edwin S. Porter's early films.

A: Porter, who had worked as a Vitaphone projectionist in 1896, created a pair of early one-shot skits called "Kansas City Saloon Smashers" and "New York City in a Blizzard" in 1901. Of course, that has nothing to do with "Eyes Wide Shut." Adios.

"Eyes Wide Shut" crisis hotline, how may I help you?

Q: This is Tricia calling from Cheap Products International. Can I speak to the head of household?

A: Uh, I'm currently giving CPR to my dog, Louis! Don't bother calling back! And how did you get this number, anyway?

HOT SHEET!

■ The annual East Bay Indian Classical Dance Festival returns to Jura Morgan Theater at 7:30 p.m. Saturday Aug. 14. Presented by Jyoti Rout and the Nupur Dance Company. Call 415-974-4313.

■ Global Paradigm, which performs Middle Eastern-style music, will play at 8 p.m. on Aug. 6 at Freight & Salvage in Berkeley. Call 415-492-0728.

■ Habib Khan & Raven will perform at 8 p.m. in Oakland at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Aug. 8. Call 510-845-2411.

EVENTS

Publishing seminar

On July 24, Mark Weiman of Regent Press will give a special seminar on independent book publishing.

This half-day class, held in the offices of Regent Press at 6020-A Adeline St., presents an overview of the business of book publishing oriented towards the author considering self-publishing. Practical aspects of book-design manufacture from typesetting and page layout to paper and binding choices, as well as issues of promotion and distribution, will be covered.

Call 547-7602 for information.

Send in the clowns

As part of the Summer Reading Program, the Oakland Public Library presents Alfie the Clown, bringing her comedy/magic show to entertain children of all ages at Melrose Branch Library, 5420 Bancroft Ave., June 26, at 11 a.m.

The free event is provided by the city of Oakland's Life Enrichment Agency-Oakland Public Library.

For information, call 238-3132.

High time with Lowe

Popular British songwriter Jex Lowe will return to Berkeley's Freight and Salvage for an encore performance with his band, The Bad Pennies, on July 28, at 8 p.m.

For information, call 548-1761.

Nick Baron Puppets

The Oakland Public Library hosts the Nick Baron Puppets in "Tales from the Enchanted Forest." Act I, "The Biggest Little Bug" is about a bug who learns a surprising lesson about being grown up. Act II, "The Grumpy Old Tree," features a cranky tree who learns about his important role in the lives of the animals from the Enchanted Forest.

These free family programs will be at the following branches. For information, call one of these branches of the Oakland Public Library.

■ Aug. 11, 10:30 a.m., at Lakeview branch, 550 El Embarcadero. Call 238-7344.

■ Aug. 18, 10:30 a.m., at West Oakland branch, 1801 Adeline St., 238-7352.

"Pterodactylis" takes wing

The UC-Berkeley Center for Theater Arts summer series continues at the Durham Studio Theatre. The CTA summer series with "Pterodactylis" by Nicky Silver, Aug. 6-28, at 8 p.m.; and Aug. 29, at 2 p.m.

The theater is located on the UC-Berkeley campus.

For information, call 642-1677.

Sounds at City Center

The City Center's Summer Evening Sounds 13th annual concert series, sponsored by the Shorestein Company, will feature swing, jazz, blues, pop, a cappella and international music.

Every Thursday in July, 5-6:30 p.m., the event is held at city square and stage, in the heart of the City Center complex at downtown Oakland's 12th Street BART station.

Parking is available at the City Center garage, with entrances on 11th street and 14th street between Broadway and Clay Street.

Events are free and open to the public.

For information, call the City Center events hotline at 628-8490.

Lopes exhibit

"From People to Paradox: The Photographs of Gerard Castello-Lopes," an exhibit of work by Portuguese photographer Gerard Castello-Lopes, makes its West Coast premiere at UC-Berkeley Art Museum.

The exhibition will be on view through Sept. 26 in the BAM/PFA Theater Gallery.

The UC-Berkeley Art Museum

See EVENTS, Page B5

Multimedia Notes

By Bill Mann

Overplaying THE story

Media overkill: The TV and radio coverage this week of John F. Kennedy Jr.'s air crash went well beyond celebrity journalism into celebrity mongering and watched excess.

Wall-to-wall coverage on all three broadcast networks Saturday? Get a grip. The only story on two of the three network newscasts that night? You've got to be kidding.

"The whole nation is in shock," said CBS's Dan Rather. Puh-lease. If there was ever any doubt that the line between tabloid TV and traditional news has become not just blurred but nonexistent, this absurd coverage proved it.

And, having freelanced on and off for years for the National Enquirer (I write their Fall TV Preview) I know from celeb journalism. If the Enquirer and Globe want to devote all this week's issues to John, Jr., I have no problem with that. Celebrities are their lifeblood. But NBC, ABC, and CBS? Wasn't there news going on in Israel and Syria last weekend? (There was). In Kosovo? (Ditto).

And sending local TV anchors (KGO's Terilyn Joe, etc.) to cover what is essentially a national story? As KRON's Pete Wilson put it, "it's nothing more than showing the flag. We all know what's going on. The public's become a lot more cynical about the TV news business." Or realistic.

On and on it went, into Tuesday.

New information on the JFK Jr. crash, was a tease I heard repeatedly on local TV and radio — and no new information of substance followed. KCBS and KGO Radio both broke into local programming to bring live Coast Guard press briefings which provided little if anything new to a story whose ending we already knew.

"It's Kennedy's fame that puts him at the top of the news," said KRON's Wilson, hosting a radio talk show on the subject this week. Many callers were clearly as disgusted with the excessive coverage as I was. We got the same thing with Princess Di, true, but at least she had a title. And spare us the Kennedy-as-American-royalty so-farquet.

Nothing against the Kennedy clan. I've loved for some of them. And John Jr. seemed like a fine young man, although he seemed to have done little newsworthy except to bear his father's famous name and be named America's Sexiest Man by a dental-office publication in 1988. Don't Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, and Ronald Reagan have children who have accomplished at least as much? If any of them had gone down in a plane crash, would we have seen this excessive coverage? Of course not. But those Presidential children haven't been designated Celebrities or Royalty.

OK, granted, some, maybe even elitist, of people are fascinated with the Kennedys. I do not happen to be one of them. But to assume that all or even most viewers can't get enough of this story is absurd. This was purely a consultant-driven, a bad news decision that hijacked network TV news for most of the week. It's also a worrisome omen for the future. John Jr. was a good-looking guy, and he was a favorite of the Upper West Side media crowd in New York City. But did his achievements warrant this kind of coverage? Of course not.

What we saw this week was a sammying look at the future of network TV news — as a largely celebrity-driven medium. Considering this is where most Americans now get their news, I think our country has a serious problem. ABC, CBS, NBC, and CNN should all be ashamed of themselves.

A Pilot's Perspective: There has also been a lot of parallel TV coverage this week about civil aviation and small planes. In all fairness, most of it has been pretty good. I'm a pilot who's walked away from two small-plane crashes. I was flying during only one of them. The other crash came when I experienced, instrument-rated pilot who was flying our plane but was mentally fatigued after a hard day at work forgot to put the landing gear down at an airport in Oregon. It's now clear to me that this guy should have never taken off that night; he was an accident waiting to happen. It reminded me of Kennedy's ill-fated voyage and some bad decisions JFK Jr. made. My pilot friend did a num-

Musical

ations on stage.

That's how they discovered "Brimstone," a critical and financial success that ended up winning the theater a dozen Bay Area Theatre Critics' Circle awards.

Doing something like that, though, is not only risky, but labor-intensive as well. "Brimstone" had to undergo major rewriting and turned out to be a lot more work than originally anticipated.

That's why looking to some of the less-successful Broadway musicals from the past is an appealing way to find new material.

"You pick up a script to just about anything in that category — I did it with '1776' — and it's just really well-written and is the sort of material that can be produced both on an enormously high budget or on a shoe-string, the way a high school or community theater might do it," says Holtz.

"You look at a play like 'Applause,' which we did, or 'Zorba,' that Town Hall will produce, and both of those are considered secondary musicals. They both had good Broadway runs, but aren't considered major plays. But if you look at what's out there now, you could easily say either of those shows could have won the best musical Tony this year."

That's what makes mining for forgotten shows so appealing — the material is good enough to stand up to some rethinking, and, in some cases, what was only moderately successful years ago has become more acceptable to modern audiences.

"A lot of the new musicals are coming out of not-for-profit theater, and tend to be a little darker in subject matter, and maybe not as accessible as the mainstream musicals," says Holtz.

"Of course, 20 years from now, we may look at them and see them as very accessible. But right now, they aren't as commercially viable as the old Broadway shows were."

On a pedestal

And that, too, is a problem, since shows tend to run quite awhile longer than they used to before regional and community groups can obtain rights to produce them.

Most of the big musicals of the last decade or so — "Miss Saigon," "Ragtime," "Phantom of the Opera," even "Cats" — are still out of reach of regional groups because of long Broadway runs and lengthy road tours.

Diablo Light Opera Company is just now getting rights to "big," which played on Broadway from April through October 1996.

The group pushed hard to obtain the rights, probably harder than it might have if this weren't such a competitive area for musicals.

The group members made numerous phone calls and personal contacts to secure first rights to the newly released musical, according to Betty Harwood, who is producing "big" for DLOC.

And now that more groups are doing musicals, there is increased competition, both to be first with a show and to develop new material.

"Every two seasons, we feel it's time to do something new, instead of hauling out those old chestnuts everyone loves," says Michael Dehmers, president of Contra Costa Musical Theatre.

"That was the idea when we produced 'Tommy,' for example. Our hope is new people will come to see that, say 'Wow!' and be impressed enough to come back to see the other things we do."

Taking a chance

Everyone involved with musical theater realizes the need to find new material, either by looking back or seeking out new composers and writers.

"The thing is, too, with newer musicals, is the challenge to stage them in a community theater setting because of all the technical elements," says Dehmers.

"Someone who has seen 'Miss Saigon' on Broadway or on tour will want to see almost the same production, which means things like the helicopter. The technical elements are going to be the real challenge."

Many, including Dehmers, actually see the real challenge as dealing with a changing theater crowd. "I feel like as theater, we are on the cusp of transition in terms of audience," says Kip Walsh of the Contra Costa Community Theatre in El Cerrito.

"The audience we had is aging and we are losing some of them every year. But there is still a strong contingency that wants to see 'The Music Man,' and those chestnuts. Our struggle now is to develop a new audience that will stay with us when the old audience is gone."

Walsh's company is working at attracting new audiences by staging an alternate season of more contemporary works.

But there is still a strong group insisting on the old standards, says Holtz.

Most of the big musicals of the last decade or so — "Miss Saigon," "Ragtime," "Phantom of the Opera," even "Cats" — are still out of reach of regional groups because of long Broadway runs and lengthy road tours.

They are reminded of the security of the mid-century, the Eisenhower years, and the age of the happy ending. But all of that, and the heyday of the big, romantic Broadway musical, was almost a half-century ago. And, says Holtz, we may see a day in the next century when those chestnuts get the same sort of play that opera — with its 19th-century heyday — gets now.

"I'm not saying they'll be going out to see the 'Nunsense Cycle,'" says Holtz, "but they will go to see Rodgers and Hammerstein the same way they go to Puccini now."

Mann

FROM PAGE B3

ber of other things wrong, any of which could have killed us both. He's still flying, and I'm amazed the guy is still alive.

There's an old saying among pilots: Flying is very safe — and very unforgiving. Flying at night is always dicey, from my personal experience; flying over water is even more so, especially at night. And not filing a flight plan for an over-water flight at night indicates to me a dangerous degree of overconfidence on Kennedy's part.

By the way, I heard on one TV report this week that pilots in Canada are not allowed to fly at night without an instrument rating. That would be a good place to start in this country; it would immediately save lives.

Plus, I have pilot buddies who move up to a high-performance aircraft shortly after getting their licenses, and I decline to fly with



World music comes to Berkeley

GLOBAL PARADIGM, which performs original Middle Eastern music, will perform at 8 p.m. on Aug. 14 at Freight & Salvage in Berkeley. Composer and arranger Asghar Azarvand, who founded the group, experiments in Arabic, Persian, Indian, Azari, Turkish and European tunes. Call 510-548-7603.

them. Too much plane, too little experience.

CBS's Bob Schieffer said this week that the Kennedys "live on the edge," and Kennedy's flying when and where he did and in that particular aircraft bordered on recklessness.

And reckless behavior seems to run in that family. Many of the Kennedys' much-publicized tragedies could, frankly, have been prevented by moderate behavior.

LOCAL MEDIA NOTES: More from KRON's Wilson about local TV anchors being sent to Massachusetts this week: "Face it. We know nothing about Hyannisport. What possible news could a reporter from a San Francisco station dig up? Most of these network people have covered the Kennedys for years..."

KPIX finally dumped the feckless Drew Soicher this week after 18 painful months of inflicting viewers with his alleged wit. Soicher's ineptitude in the humor

department is surpassed only by Oliver Hardy imitator Wayne "What's it All Mean?" Shannon's embarrassing commentaries on KRON in the early '80s.

Channel 5 news director Dan Webster came up with the bright idea of bringing in Soicher.

This is the same guy who squanders money dispatching newsreader Dana King around the world.

Alameda's Rick Quan, who got the KPIX job he should have had in 1997, says, "I guess my patience paid off." Not to mention viewers' impatience with Soicher's lame material. Soicher was obviously brought in to out-Radnich KRON's irreverent Gary Radnich — a bad idea from the start...

KRON's Wilson again: "KPFA listeners always seem to see a larger conspiracy." Corporate interests trying to crush the last non-commercial station, blah blah blah.

Did these same political dreamers, one wonders, bother to thank

KPIX finally dumped the feckless Drew Soicher this week after 18 painful months of inflicting viewers with his alleged wit.

Pacifica's board of directors that group of capitalists repeatedly spurned the million three years ago when first reported in the Exam sell the station to commercial broadcasting interests?

Frankly, if I were Pacifica, I'd take the money, who needs constant headaches from extremists? Besides, many are better-suited to megaphones than they are to microphones.

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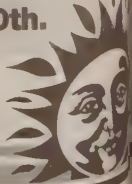
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Read-to-me books are a delight for both adults and children

By Barbara L. Sloane

Summertime is reading time for adults and children alike. With the vacation months rapidly disappearing, here are some suggestions for parents to lead their children into books which hook them into the joy of summertime reading.

Several new books for the "read-to-me" group or beginning readers go on verse to keep the story going—that and bright, delightful illustrations.

"My Friend Chicken," written and illustrated by Adam McCauley (Chronicle Books, 28 pages, \$9.95) is really different. A little girl ignores pink lemonade rain, tangoing snakes and flying fish because all she can think about is her chicken friend who's missing. This is probably one of the most unusual children's books about friendship I've ever seen. (P.S. There is a happy ending.)

Another unique fantasy is "The Big Bug Ball" written by Dee Lillegard of Castro Valley and illustrated by Rex Barron (G.P. Putnam's Sons, 32 pages, \$15.99). With a cicada, cricket and Old Cicada providing the music, a colorful array of bugs join in the dance. Poor the sobbug doesn't know how, but fortunately she's enticed into trying it. Dance, dance, dance until you're tired. Lots of color, rhythm and fun. This one designed for ages 4 and up.

Two more rhyming books for 5 and up with a more serious purpose, both equally charming, are "The Reason For A Flower" and "Plants That Never Ever Bloom," both written and illustrated by San

Franciscan Ruth Heller (Paperstar, 46 pages, \$6.99). These are vibrant paperback editions of Penguin-Putnam's Books for Young Readers' series "World of Nature."

"The Reason For A Flower" illustrates the means by which seeds are carried, planted and become plants. Along the way young readers' vocabularies will be expanded to include words like herbivorous, parasite and angiosperm.

In "Plants That Never Ever Bloom," Heller takes her reader into the land of mushrooms, seaweed, ferns and lichens. These books are a marvelous way to teach botany to young people. The rhyming text flows in and around Heller's entrancing drawings, and at only \$6.99 each, they are fabulous bargains.

Illustrator Daniel SanSouci is well-known to many of his fellow Oaklanders. In "Ice Bear And Little Fox," written by Jonathan London (Dutton, 40 pages, \$15.99), SanSouci's watercolors capture the Arctic habitat of a young polar bear and an Arctic fox. The relationship between the two as they struggle to survive in a harsh environment is believable and informative. Although the story told by London and dramatized by SanSouci's pictures graphically presents this adventurous life, the author has also provided an afterword with even more detailed information about the interesting way in which the polar bears survive and the Arctic foxes live with their neighbors.

"Frog Face" is a charming book by John Schindel, an Oakland author. With photographs of her two daughters by Berkeley Janet Delaney, the book illustrates the ups and downs of sisterhood (Henry

Holt, 24 pages, \$14.95). The book's subtitle, "My little sister and me," says it all. Johanna was happy when her new sister first arrived, but then life got complicated. Jillian took too much of Mom's time and eventually became a bother. But as shown in these marvelous pictures of real sisters, they both realize that, "A sister is someone to love."

Families such as the one in "Manuela's Gift" are full of love. Written by Kristyn Rehling Estes, illustrated by Claire B. Cotts (Chronicle Books, 26 pages, \$15.99), this touching story celebrates the joy and happiness Manuela discovers on her birthday when she doesn't receive the dress she wanted, but does recognize the riches of her family's love. The vivid, colorful paintings of a Mexican family's home life enhance this moving story.

In "Jojo & Winnie," San Francisco author Marilyn Sachs tackled the sister relationship with two very different fictional siblings. Jojo loves to read, but little sister Winnie always wants to play. It takes a while, but eventually they strike a bargain when they realize they need each other. Young readers from ages 7 to 10 will enjoy this immensely, especially girls with sisters (Illustrations by Meredith Johnson, Dutton Children's Books, 72 pages, \$14.99).

Books for older readers are seldom light-hearted, but they can be invaluable as exposure to historical events and also to current social concerns.

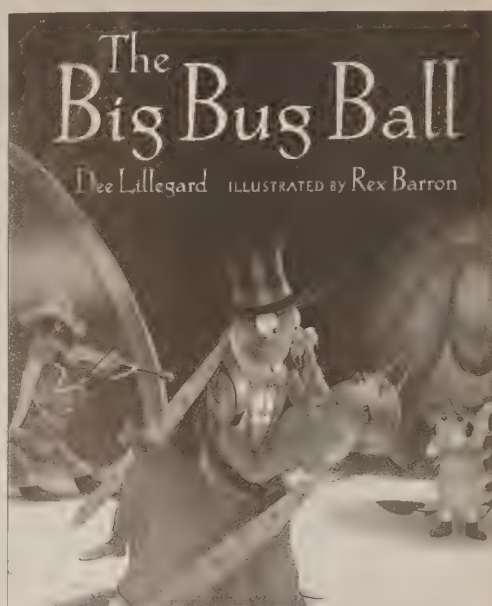
"Lightning Time" by Douglas Rees (Puffin, 168 pages, \$4.99) deals with a controversial figure in American history, abolitionist John Brown, and his impact on a fic-

tional teen-ager. Theodore Worth is so impressed by Brown's courage and his crusade to free Negro slaves that he runs away to join the attack on Harper's Ferry. Author Rees, a San Jose librarian, does a fine job of presenting both sides of the argument surrounding John Brown and his efforts. In Theodore Worth he has created a believable young idealist who can't wait for more sober minds to solve the crisis confronting his country in the 1850s.

"Rundown" by Albany author Michael Cadnum (Viking, 170 pages, \$15.99) proves once again how skilled this writer is at presenting the turmoils of adolescent life. Set in Berkeley, Rundown takes us into the mind of Jennifer Thayer, who convinces her family and the police that she has been attacked while jogging in Strawberry Canyon.

Her false report was designed to draw attention to herself and away from her older sister's impending wedding. By pulling us into Jennifer's thoughts and actions over the following days, Cadnum reveals the destruction that can result from a lie. A Cadnum book always compels from the first page and Rundown is no exception. He is undoubtedly one of the best current writers for teen-agers.

Another master at her craft was Dorothea Lange, the Berkeley photographer. "Restless Spirit: The Life And Work of Dorothea Lange" was written by Elizabeth Partridge, whose father Ron was an assistant to Lange (Viking, 128 pages, \$19.99). Although the intended audience is the 10- to 14-year-old reader, this story of Lange's life and the 60 duotone photographs



"THE BIG BUG BALL" is written by Dee Lillegard and illustrated by Rex Barron.

should hold the attention of readers of all ages. As part of Lange's extended family, the author, who lives in Berkeley and was Lange's goddaughter, is able to create an intimate portrait of a famous woman.

The photographs from Lange's

early student days in New York to the well-known Depression shots to those from the Japanese internment camps, are mixed with personal shots of Dorothea and her family to give a fully-developed pictorial biography of a remarkable woman.

Shotgun Players hit bull's-eye with 'Christmas on Mars'

By Marc Albert

From the moment the actors appear, you know you're in for one heck of a ride. Bruno and Audrey's tortuous argument search ends in a pastel New York room. The gorgeous couple are society's perfect pair, but when moments their lives are unraveling under an endless barrage of truth.

The Shotgun Players' flawless production of Harry Kondoleon's hilarious stage play, "Christmas on Mars," pounds the modern relationship into the dirt. Biting satire and adult themes fill a powerful script that both sidesplitting laughs and provokes that seldom reaches the mainstream stage.

Patrick Dooley's vacuous Bruno is a twenty-something model ex-

pecting his ship to arrive at any moment. What arrives instead is news that his luscious girlfriend Audrey, played by Marin Van Young, is pregnant. Soon Audrey's mother Ingrid, who abandoned her in early childhood, arrives. Audrey, who hasn't spoken to her mother in years, is far from thrilled. Then, in walks Nissim, Bruno's bisexual former college roommate and friend who just quit his airline steward job.

The four have a lot to work out, and it's not long before old secrets are made public. Audrey announces she chose Bruno "like a salmon" as a good-looking provider, and that "He doesn't even love himself unless the light is just right and he's passing by a mirror!"

All the performers are outstanding, but Andrew Hurteau's Nissim steals the show.

"The stewards work twice as hard as the stewardesses," he says of his old job, "because they wanted to be stewardesses to begin with."

"Have you been looking at the newspaper again?" he asks Ingrid. "I told you not to look at them, it's the same news over and over again."

The plot twists unfold fast and furiously. It's impossible to tell when or where it will all end and how far the four characters will go to insult, attack and berate each other. But as Dooley, the troupe's artistic director, explained, "as messed up as the characters are, they are all trying to be loved, but they are all coming from this distorted space." Dooley said the play has been described as "Barefoot in the Park" on acid.

Where most fairy tales end, with the marriage and the cliché "happily

ever after," the Shotgun Players turn that into just the beginning, but with all the oh so human traits that we never learned about in fairy tales.

Directed by Reid Davis, "Christmas on Mars" is probably not for everyone. It's not a musical (thank God), but serious drama investigating the tangled web of relationships in a far from perfect world. It's a true thrill to have modern adult drama that is introspective without being artistically aloof. Best of all it's affordable—at prices even an artist can afford.

The Shotgun Players "Christmas on Mars" runs Thursdays-Saturdays at 8 p.m.; Sundays at 7 p.m. through Aug. 15 at La Val's Subterranean, 1834 Euclid between Hearst Avenue and Ridge Road.

For information, call 655-0813.

Events

FROM PAGE B3

and Pacific Film Archive is located at 2626 Bancroft Way, just below College Avenue near the UC-Berkeley campus.

Gallery hours are Wednesday, Friday, Saturday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thursday, 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Free hours are Thursday, 11 a.m.-noon, and 5-9 p.m.

Admission: \$6; seniors and students, 12-18, \$4; BAM/PFA members, UC-Berkeley students and children under 12, free; group tour members \$3.

Call 510-642-5188; 24-hour recorded message 642-0808.

"Shirtwaist Tale"

Anniversary Productions announces the August premiere of "A Shirtwaist Tale," a full-length musical set in 1909 in New York's Lower

East Side.

The premiere of "A Shirtwaist Tale" is scheduled for Aug. 6, and will run through Aug. 22, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m.; and Sundays at 2 p.m. at the College Preparatory School, 6100 Broadway, Oakland.

Tickets: \$15 general; \$12 students, seniors and groups.

For tickets and information, call 550-0592.

Asian Center concerts

Oakland Asian Cultural Center presents free outdoor performances each Thursday in July. Schedule includes:

July 29: Tahitian Drums and Dance. The Pacific Island culture of Tahiti is highlighted by the award-winning group Te Mana O Te Ra.

Events are at noon in Pacific Renaissance Plaza at Webster and 9th streets.

For information, call 208-6080.

Dining & Entertainment

Advertising Feature

La Creme de la Creme

Come enjoy our new French menu in our garden patio

EARLY BIRD SPECIALS from 5 to 7 pm - 30% OFF

SPECIALS

Coquilles St. Jacques en Brochettes and Lamb Noisettes "La Creme de la Creme"

5362 College Avenue Oakland (510) 420-8822 LUNCH Mon-Fri 11:30am-2pm BRUNCH Sat & Sun 9am-2pm DINNER Nightly 7 Days from 5pm

Our 175,000 readers will fill your tables...

Garibaldi's on College

5356 College Ave., near Manilla, Oakland (510) 595-4000

The menu at Garibaldi's focuses on Mediterranean-style seafood, from tantalizing appetizers (baked oysters, scallop ceviche) to perfectly done entrees (grilled swordfish, spaghetti with scallops and prawns).

Zesty mussels, with saffron, aioli and orange are piled high, and a rich dessert of warm chocolate pudding-cake, espresso ice cream

and toasted nuts is enough to satisfy almost anyone.

First-rate pizzas and cold tapas make this a great place for sharing, and a semi-private back dining room is good for groups. Major cards accepted and wheelchair accessible.

The Reef

1000 Embarcadero-Oakland (510) 836-2519

At The Reef restaurant you get a combination of quality fresh fish bought daily, with the culinary

expertise from the same owners for 18 years.

The menu features grilled, sautéed, broiled or Cajun seafood. Salmon, swordfish, halibut, prawns and year-round lobster plus seasonal specials are prepared to your liking. Sauces include curry, champagne, and various Thai specials.

The Reef Restaurant is located about one mile south of Jack London Square off 880 freeway. Free parking and a complimentary guest dock make this a good destination by land or sea.



Fine Dining • Free Parking Make Reservations for 25 to 90 people Over the Water By the Boats In Casual Elegance • Great Seafood, Steaks • Same owner for 18 years

We accept Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Diners Club, Carte Blanche and Discover

1000 Embarcadero, Oakland 1 MILE SOUTH OF JACK LONDON SQUARE (510) 836-2519

Hungry for customers?

Call now to reserve your space in our

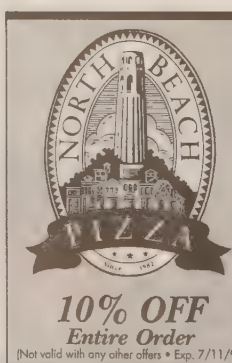
Dining & Entertainment Suite

Prices start at just \$120 for a business card-size ad. Call Margie Parker at 339-4036 for details.

HILLS NEWSPAPERS INC.

5707 Redwood Road • Oakland 94619 (510) 339-4030

THE MONTICLARIAN • PIEDMONT • BERKELEY VOICE • THE JOURNAL • ALAMEDA JOURNAL



10% OFF Entire Order (Not valid with any other offers • Exp. 7/11/99)

San Francisco's Most Awarded Pizza

NOW IN BERKELEY!

849-9800

FAST FREE DELIVERY (LIMITED AREAS)

Pizza • Pasta • Salad Sandwiches Wine, Beer & More

1598 University Ave. @ California PLENTY OF FREE PARKING

GARIBALDIS PRESENTS A FEATURED MENU FOR EARLY DINERS

Before 6:45 pm \$18.95 per person After 6:45 pm \$21.95 per person SUN - WED NIGHTS

5356 College 510 595 4000

Senior Living

Advertising Feature



SUNRISE
ASSISTED LIVING
OF OAKLAND HILLS

11889 Skyline Blvd
AT REDWOOD ROAD
Oakland

(510) 531-7190

www.sunrise-al.com

- Wellness program supervised by licensed nursing staff
- 24-hour caregiving staff and security
- Individualized service plans to meet specific care needs of residents
- Incontinence Management Program
- Elegant dining with varied menu choices
- Activities, social programs and weekly excursions
- Scheduled transportation
- Weekly housekeeping and laundry service



ANNUITY OWNERS READ THIS!

Many annuity owners lose 75% of the value of their annuity when it pays off! Will this happen to you?

It's true. Annuities and IRAs can be double-taxed assets (subject to income taxes PLUS estate taxes). After estate taxes and income taxes, there can be as little as **25% of the value remaining**. You can learn how to avoid the loss in the FREE educational booklet "Annuity Owner Mistakes." The booklet is free and shows how to avoid double taxation and get more benefits from your existing annuity value.

For your FREE copy

Call **SeniorFOCUS**
888-715-7612 (24 hours)

Martinez

California Agent License #0544278

Why Insurance, Anywhere?

By Richard Seel, CFP, CSA,
Registered Investment Advisor
and founder of SeniorFOCUS

Risk Management is the process of assessing one's risks and then developing a strategy to reduce, minimize or possibly eliminate those risks. For example, if you owned a \$500,000 home, there was an earthquake and your home was destroyed, if someone then came up to you and offered to replace your home for \$50,000, what would you do?

Probably you would take them up on their offer. Paying for earthquake coverage can cost you about \$50,000 over your lifetime, by the time you reach age 75 or more. Statistically, we have the possibility of experiencing all of these risks (see table A).

In the Bay Area, nursing home care is running in the neighborhood of \$4,000 to \$6,000 per month. With life expectancies continually expanding many more

Accident Risks

EVENT	CHANCES OF OCCURRING
House Burning	1 in 88
Car Accident	1 in 16
Medical Problems	Yearly
Long-Term Care	48 in 100 aged 85+

Sources: 1997 Accident Facts, National Council; 1997 Modification of Nursing Home Survey

of us are going to live years. Be sure you and your family are properly insured!

SeniorFOCUS specializes in meeting the special needs of people 60 years and older. A range of service are available to help organize and assist more mature citizens in planning alternatives. Call 888-678-8477 for more information and to arrange an appointment.



To advertise in the Senior Living section, please call (510) 531-7190
HILLS NEWSPAPERS • 1707 REDWOOD ROAD • OAKLAND 94612

Assisted Living at its Best

Month-to-month contracts
now available at Salem

We have over seventy years of experience providing personalized care programs for older individuals. One look at our facilities will show you that we have kept up with the times. Our primary goal remains the same – maintain a community that brings enrichment to one and all.

Residential • Assisted Living • Dementia Care
Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation Program

Call today for an appointment!

Mercy Retirement & Care Center

Sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy
Oakland, CA 94601

510-534-8540

RCFE #011440106
SNF #CA020000237



Equal Housing Opportunity

Salem Lutheran Home

Sponsored by the Sierra Pacific Synod
Oakland, CA 94606

510-534-3637

CCRC Certificate of Authority #178
RCFE #011400569 - SNF #CA020000442



Many Annuity Owners Lose Money. Do You?

Many annuity owners lose over 50% of the value of their annuity when it pays off!

It's true and we show you exactly how to avoid the loss in our booklet "Annuity Owner Mistakes." The booklet is free and shows how to get more benefits from your existing assets and help preserve your annuity value.

Call **Alamo Capital** of Walnut Creek at
800-769-3745

(24 hours) and leave your address for your free copy.

Agent License # 0B23582



Mona Lalchandani, newly appointed Director of Community Relations

Sunrise Assisted Living Names New Director

Inside the bright new villa, situated with a commanding view atop Redwood Oakland, is a woman who brings warmth and comfort to her surroundings.

Her name is Mona Lalchandani, Director of Community Relations at Sunrise Assisted Living. Mona is a part of the Sunrise team before it opened its doors in Oakland. Formerly an Assisted Living Coordinator, she is in her new position since 1999.

"I have a strong sense of caring for my children and devotion to my parents," Mona says. "My respect for family bonds makes it easy to understand the needs of the residents. Mona works closely with the residents to make the transition as smooth as possible."

"It's always a pleasure to work," she said. As for Scarlett, the resident dog, she gets a dog biscuit treat. A cat resides in the home of the Sunrise facility.

"I work closely with the residents here at Sunrise to provide a warm and familiar and enjoyable environment just nurturing the spirit is important, but to foster independence, encourage independence, enable freedom of choice. In instance, our formal dining room provides three meals a day with restaurant style menu and several choices for each meal reminds me of dining on a ship!"

Sunrise also provides a secure neighborhood for those with Alzheimer's and other types of memory impairment.

"MOVING TO ST. PAUL'S TOWERS

was the right choice for me and my daughter."



Ruth Joos, St. Paul's Towers resident since 1998

ENJOY CAREFREE, INDEPENDENT RETIREMENT LIVING ON BEAUTIFUL LAKE MERRITT.

Ruth Joos moved north from Santa Barbara to be near her daughter Tracy Johnston, a noted author who lives in the Oakland hills. At St. Paul's Towers, she's not only near Tracy, but she's also settled comfortably in a spacious private apartment with a spectacular view of Lake Merritt and San Francisco.

Ruth, too, likes to write and participates in St. Paul's Towers' poetry group and creative writing class. She enjoys a wide range of resident services, including weekly housekeeping, scheduled transportation and delicious meals served in a gracious dining room.

What's more, Ruth has the assurance of comprehensive lifetime medical care as part of her Life Care contract. To learn more about St. Paul's Towers, call us today at (510) 891-8542.



**ST. PAUL'S
TOWERS**

YES, I'D LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT
LIFE CARE AT ST. PAUL'S TOWERS.

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____
Zip _____ Phone () _____
Mail to St. Paul's Towers, 100 Bay Place, Oakland, CA 94610 H



EQUAL HOUSING
OPPORTUNITY

St. Paul's Towers is a non-denominational, not-for-profit Life Care community owned and operated by the Episcopal Homes Foundation. License: 011400627

Ruth and Tracy in the St. Paul's Towers library (above); mother and daughter on Tracy's wedding day in 1965.

Senior Living

Advertising Feature

New Name, Same Great Service at Angel Home Care

Professional Homecare Companions has changed their name to Angel Home Care. With the name change a new identity and image has been created.

An Angel has been chosen as the new logo. Clients report that their caregivers act as "Angels" caring for the elderly and disabled, and really make a difference in their lives. It was felt the new name and image was appropriate for the services offered by the agency.

Angel Home Care is owned and managed by Registered Nurses, Bobbie Richards and Cindy Duggan, who are dedicated to delivering the highest quality of care to their clients; their goal is to assist their clients to remain as independent as possible living in their home.

Angel Home Care offers creative, innovative and cost effective

services to meet your home care needs; whether it is to assist in a sudden illness, to provide short or long term care for a senior or family member with disabilities, transportation to medical appointments or errands, companionship or personal care for someone who requires assistance to maintain independent living.

Personal care services can be specially customized programs tailored to meet the needs of the individual client or client's family. All caregivers are employees of the agency, so taxes and insurance are handled by Angel Home Care. All staff are bonded and carefully screened, and supervised by the Registered Nurse owners.

For more information on personalized home care services contact Angel Home Care and talk to a registered nurse or staffing manager at (510)482-2600.

Independent Living at The Altenheim

At The Altenheim, Inc., we offer Independent Living, Assisted Living and a smaller unit for residents who require a higher level for memory impairment. However, the one question asked frequently is, "what is the function of Assisted Living?"

Older adults who do not require extensive medical care needs, example, I.V.'s, or tube feedings, but do need assistance with daily care management such as bathing, showering, toileting and medication is considered Assisted Living. This special care gives residents support and security. Assisted Living is less expensive than a skilled nursing facility.

The concept of Assisted Living is not new! It has been available in smaller units since the 1970's and its popularity rose in the 1980's.

As the senior population is now opting to remain at home, as long as possible, the decision to come to a senior facility means more

Assisted Living. Today, most senior living facilities offering Assisted Living are larger, offering more extensive programs, and are designed to meet the residents needs.

California remains the leading State, in the United States, providing Assisted Living at this time.

Our residents can live in one of our studios or suites (one bedroom) and know that meals, snacks, transportation to doctors, in Oakland, and shopping are provided.

When a resident becomes frail, without needing skilled nursing, their families can have a licensed home health service provide the extra care, either daily or weekly. Understandably, this is a decision that the family must make. The cost for home health care is the responsibility of the resident and family, not the facility's.

For more information, call Penny Graff, Director of Marketing, at (510) 530-4013.

Live Longer, Healthier, Safer: Home-Care Tips For Seniors

The U.S. Census Bureau predicts that the age 65-plus population will grow from 34 million today to more than 39 million by the year 2010. Seniors over 85 will see the largest increase. More than seven million people are injured each year as a result of accidents in the home, but most home accidents are preventable.

In general, older individuals should assess the safety of their home environments. Do area rugs have rubber backings? Are there hand rails along stairs and the walls of the bath and shower? Are

heavy objects in a central place to prevent unnecessary bending and lifting? The bathroom, in particular, can be a hazardous room for seniors. Non-slip mats, shower doors made of plastic or tempered glass, and unbreakable bottles, cups and containers are recommended.

The kitchen is often another perilous area. Keep all flammable items away from the stove and unused appliances unplugged. In addition, every kitchen should have a smoke alarm and fire extinguisher in working order.

Patients should never take medication from bottles whose labels have fallen off, or if they are unsure of the contents or the medication date has expired, and avoid using medications that have changed in appearance.



Angel Home Care

PERSONNEL

- Home Health Aides
- Certified Nurse Aides
- Companion/Sitters
- Housekeepers
- Geriatric Care Manager

SERVICES

- Bathing and Grooming
- Cooking/Meal Preparation
- House keeping/Laundry
- Medication Supervision
- Morningcare/Evening Tuck-in
- Live In/Sleep Over
- Transportation

"Providing Professional Homecare Services To Maintain Safe, Secure And Independent Living"

(510) 482-2600

FAX (510) 482-1280

5052 Woodminster Lane, Oakland 94602

"Active senior living in a caring community"

WESTLAKE CHRISTIAN TERRACE

Studio & 1 bedroom apartments

All electric kitchen

All utilities Included

Residential non - assisted living

Active social, recreational, & educational programs

Shopping and Medical facilities nearby

Non - sectarian

Now accepting applications

WESTLAKE CHRISTIAN TERRACE

275 - 28th Street • Oakland, CA

(510) 893 - 2998



Equal Housing Opportunity

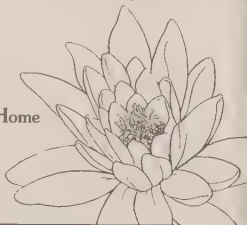
Come take a Stroll through our Gardens Matilda Brown Home

- 36 Private Units
- Month to Month Rental
- Assisted Living Program
- 2-Acre Garden
- Over 125 Years Serving Elderly Women
- 24-Hour Care & Supervision
- 3 Meals Per Day
- Daily Housekeeping
- Personal Laundry

The Matilda Brown Home
360 42nd Street
Oakland, CA 94609

510-658-5565

RCFE #011400429



The Neighbors You've Been Looking For.

GRAND LAKE GARDENS



At Grand Lake Gardens Retirement Community, we have plenty of what most people never have enough of - great neighbors. The kind who make you feel wanted and welcome. Neighbors who appreciate and respect you.

Grand Lake Gardens is about companionship - friends, activities and conversations that fill the day. A neighborhood where your experiences are valued and your needs met.

Grand Lake Gardens' continuing care plan will put you at ease, too. The bottom line is, you'll always be surrounded by people who care.

Call Grand Lake Gardens at (510) 596-2600 to arrange a visit. And let us welcome you to our neighborhood.



Grand Lake Gardens
Retirement Community

401 Santa Clara Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610
(510) 596-2600

www.RetirementLife.com

e-mail: Gardens@RetirementLife.com



Grand Lake Gardens is owned and operated by American Baptist Homes of the West, a non-sectarian, not-for-profit company serving seniors through quality retirement housing since 1946. State of California License #011400216

A Time and a Place For All Things...

There's time for friendship and there's time for privacy.

At the Altenheim, seniors have time to stroll our rose garden path over six lush acres of landscaped grounds nestled in the Oakland foothills.

Here they enjoy the good life at a great value, priced to accommodate our senior community. Assisted living service available as needed.

Life Line Residential Response System for Room Communication

- Private studios or suites
- Charming dining room, living room & library
- Social, recreational activities and outings
- Restaurant Style Dining
- Housekeeping and linen service
- All utilities except telephone and cable TV
- All rooms have cable hookups
- Door to door service to doctors and dentists in Oakland
- Beauty Salon/ Barber Shop
- Wellness Clinic
- Customized care services
- 24 hour Care including security
- Owned by The Altenheim Association



The Altenheim

A Senior Living Community

Call today for a visit or a brochure

510-530-4013

1720 MacArthur Boulevard
Oakland, CA 94602

License #015600297



CLASSIFIED

510-339-8777

TRANSPORTATION

101 Autos

BMW 76 2002. Asking \$2000 Call (510)534-9128.

CADILLAC '67 Brougham. Maroon, black vinyl top, leather, 132K. Beautiful, excellent condition. \$5600. Offer. 510-530-3911.

CHEVY 1987 Malibu. 18.5K. sunroof, green, 4-dr, no maintenance engine, AC, excellent condition. \$12,500/obo. 510-864-9748.

CHEVY '98 Camaro RS. 3.1L very clean, 1-year powertrain warranty, good gas mileage. \$9900/OBO. 510-865-1456.

CIVIC 1993 EX, all power, sunroof, AT, 85K, CD, \$8000. 510-832-4451.

DODGE '98 Neon. 4-door sedan. Fully loaded, automatic, 12K miles. \$9500. Call 530-4695.

DODGE 1996 Van. 8-pass, great family vehicle, excellent condition. On warranty. \$12,925. 510-558-1348.

DODGE 1994 RAM 350. White, excellent condition, automatic, AC, full power. \$10,000. 510-638-6601.

FORD 90 Taurus Wagon. 3.0L. Burgundy, roof rack, 102K. AT, AC, PW, well-maintained. \$3200. 510-854-2446.

FORD 1993 Arrowstar. 80K miles, excellent condition. \$4000. 510-743-9550. 510-655-3797.

FORD 1986 F150 pickup. Runs well, good tires, new front brakes, campershell. 150K. \$2500. 522-2061.

HONDA'S FROM \$500. Police Impounds, Call Repo's. For listings call 1-800-319-3323 ext 2714.

► To Place A Classified Ad Call 339-8777 ◀

HONDA '89 Accord LX. 5-speed, 170K miles, all repair records, excellent condition. \$3900/obo. 510-865-6457.

HONDA '88 Prelude, Automatic. \$4000. 510-825-8306.

HONDA 1997 Accord LX. CD changer, excellent condition. 1-owner. \$17,200/obo. 510-864-7392.

HONDA 1986 Accord DX. Runs great, equipped with cell phone. \$2100 obo. 510-814-6123.

101 Autos

We Need Your Support!

DONATE YOUR VEHICLE to help children & their families, people with AIDS and other charities. **FREE TOWING** You can make a difference. **1-800-414-4285**

► To Place A Classified Ad Call 339-8777 ◀

ISUZU '98 Trooper. 145K, good condition, 5-speed, 4-door. \$2800. Call 510-594-4031.

JAGUAR 1988 XJ6, mint in/out, sunroof, Black, 36K miles warranty. Will finance. VIN#540072. \$5900. 925-634-8489.

JEEP 1998 Wrangler for lease. 2 years left. Black, soft-top, \$272/mth payment. 510-597-0706.

LINCOLN '78 Continental Mark V Carter, Champagne color. A Truly beautiful Classic Car. \$2500. (510)836-3493.

MADZA 1986 RX7, 88K, 5-spd, power sunroof/wind-down, new tires. \$2300/obo. 925-634-8489.

MERCEDES 1988 190E, pristine, sunroof, chrome wheels, 36K warranty. Will finance. VIN#48006 77000. 925-634-8489.

► To Place A Classified Ad Call 339-8777 ◀

MERCEDES 1987 300E, mint in/out, sunroof, low miles, warranty. Will finance. VIN#54556. \$9,900. 925-634-8489.

MERCEDES 1984 500SEC, pristine in/out, sunroof, leather, Will finance. VIN#005981. \$7900. 925-634-8489.

MERCEDES 1983 300TD, turbo-diesel, stationwagon, Champagne w/interior, luggage rack, sunroof, 3rd seat. 115K. \$9000. 510-866-6736.

NISSAN 1989 Maxima, leather interior, AC, sunroof. Excellent condition. 1 owner. \$4500. 510-769-0269.

101 Autos

PONTIAC '78 Trans Am. Original owner, Automatic, AC, New front tires, 170K, \$1200 OBO. (510)594-1199. 510-522-2061.

SATURN 1992 SL1. Automatic, AM/FM Cassette, well-maintained. Excellent condition. 92K. \$5500 OBO. 510-522-2061.

SELL YOUR CAR FOR JUST \$211! We'll run your advertisement for one week, for JUST \$211 if your car doesn't sell, we'll run your 2nd week for NO CHARGE!

► To Place A Classified Ad Call 339-8777 ◀

SUBARU 1986 Wagon, turbo, automatic, loaded, AC, 2WD, 142K, moonroof, runs good. 1-owner. \$2850. 510-531-9415.

SUBARU 1986 Wagon, turbo, automatic, loaded, AC, 2WD, 142K, moonroof, runs good. 1-owner. \$2700. 510-531-9415.

TOYOTA '94 Camry LE. Automatic, AC, PS, all power, alarm, 85K. \$9598. 510-206-1937 San.

TOYOTA '92 Tercel Sedan, automatic transmission, power steering, cassette, moonroof. Mint condition. 85K. \$3585. 510-558-1348.

VOLVO 1985 740GLE, 5-spd, power everything, great car, very reliable. 135K, all records. \$3300/obo. 510-849-0638.

VW 1986 JETTA GL Wolfsburg, 4-dr, moonroof, stereo, 120K, new tires, good condition. \$2500/obo. 510-444-4752.

VW 1986 Westfalia Camper, great family car, seats 7, sleeps 4, excellent condition. \$8000. 510-522-1017.

WANT a place of History? 1945 WWII Ford Military Jeep. Call for details. VIN#005981. \$7900. 925-634-8489.

MERCEDES 1983 300TD, turbo-diesel, stationwagon, Champagne w/interior, luggage rack, sunroof, 3rd seat. 115K. \$9000. 510-866-6736.

NISSAN 1989 Maxima, leather interior, AC, sunroof. Excellent condition. 1 owner. \$4500. 510-769-0269.

BULLETIN BOARD

As a community service The Hills Newspapers is pleased to offer Found, Giveaway and Lost ads free of charge (max. 15 words for 2 weeks)

CLASSIFIED DISPLAY ADS REALLY WORK! Call Classified to find out more! 339-8777

201 Announcements

URGENT! URGENT! American Host families needed for French high school students. Arriving early August. Call 510-339-1107.

BRIGHT Star Montessori School announcing its relocation to Albany, 720 Jackson Street on 7/1. 510-233-5330.

204 Found

BLACK/White male adult cat. Found 7/11 at Pierpoint. Needs owner. 510-482-2448.

ALL black kitten, about 7-months old. Super sweet. Found Sunnyside/Lake St. weeks ago. (510)658-2712.

205 Giveaway

URGENT! Need temporary foster homes for homeless animals. Need food, cages, litter, traps. 510-444-3204.

"SWEET-SWEET" darling 8-month old chow, golden retriever mix. Affectionate donation. Tracy. 510-235-6143.

KITTENS, fluffy mixed, 2 gray/1 black & white 7-weeks. Shots. Please call. 510-451-2727.

REFRIGERATORS-Running hard need repairs. You haul 510-278-9608.

LOST Cat 7/4, Park Blvd. Brighton Female, Cream-colored, striped legs/tail, blue eyes. 510-530-4496.

"BRENDA" 13 years, DSH, tortoiseshell, sweet, loving, spayed, tested, shots. Donations. 510-444-3204.

"JESSICA" 14 years, DSH, Brown tabby, very sweet & affectionate. Spayed, tested, shots. Donation. 510-444-3204.

"LUCKY" 7 yrs, "Junior" 4 years Abyssinian mix, altered, tested, shots. Affectionate, loving. Donation. 510-530-6665.

205 Giveaway

CAT/ Gladys' 5 yrs, DMH, tortoiseshell, spayed, tested, shots, very sweet. Donation. 510-261-5657.

NEW born kittens, tested, shots, alter assistance if needed. Cute, cuddly. Donation. 510-635-8454.

NEW Born kittens, cute, cuddly, tested shots, alter assistance if needed. Donation. 510-654-6799.

LAB/ Golden needs home. Adult male, excellent health. Loves people, hates being left alone. 510-524-7733.

LAB mix, 3 females, 1 male puppies. 1 blonde, 3 black. Need loving homes. 510-238-9595.

BEAGLE Loving 1 year female, pure bred, good with children. Free to good home. 510-655-1825.

RCA TV, 27" console model. Good Condition. Call 510-235-8746.

ESCAPED "Fritzie", 8 lbs, black cat. 7/14, Monte Vista Fairmont Sweet, loves people. Call 510-655-4456.

LOST Iranian passport around Berkeley area, approx. Feb. 1. If you find, please call 510-704-0851.

"KETZLE" Lost cat Glenview, silver tabby with 1-bad eye and racoon striped tail. Reward 510-531-3506.

209 Workshops & Classes

BECOME a certified hypnotherapist. Learn how. Free orientation. Saturday, July 24th, 11am. Course begins August 14th. 800-642-WELL.

EDUCATION

303 Instruction & Tutoring

MEDICAL ASSISTANT, PHLEBOTOMY, EKG Boston Reed Company, California Registration Number 3901291. 1-800-201-1141.

304 Musical Instruction

PIANO Lessons, Jazz, Blues, Classical, More. Experienced, Patient, All Ages. Summer Special Offer. 865-3943.

305 Schools & Camps

SMILES DAY SCHOOL Pre-school program 2.5-5 years. Full-time and part-time. Before and after school program. Pick up and delivery to local elementary schools. 7:30 - 6:00. 339-3930.

► To Place A Classified Ad Call 339-8777 ◀

EMPLOYMENT

401 Childcare Wanted

BABYSITTER, Berkeley. 3-times per week. Flexible hours. Must have car. Good pay. References needed. 510-665-7796.

CAREGIVER- P/T, 3-6:30pm, Monday-Friday, 2-4 hrs. 947. Great Oakland neighborhood. English speaking. Non-smoking. C.D.L. 510-444-4478.

CHILD CARE, live-in/ out. Non-smoking. C.D.L. & references required. 415-284-4429.

CHILD CARE, 1 and 3 yrs, P/T afternoons, Monday-Friday, light housekeeping, own car. C.D.L. 510-832-6777.

CHILD CARE for 8-yr old, Monday, Tuesday, Thursday afternoons, Montclair. Reliable driver with own car. 510-655-9551.

EXPERIENCED Nanny/ Mother's helper wanted for 20-month old girl. Live-in/ out. Supervise 13 yr old boy. Cook dinner. Long-term commitment. Must love children. Playful. 510-865-5456.

EXPERIENCED caregiver for 4 yr old, live-in/ out. References, good English. C.D.L. 510-547-6881, after 7p.

HOUSEHOLD HELP/ child care. Household helper wanted 3-7pm, Monday-Friday for Piedmont family. Live-in/ out. Supervise 13 yr old boy. Cook dinner. Laundry, light housekeeping. Non-smoking. Safe driver and car. Ideal for college student. 510-428-1746 after 7:30pm.

HOUSEKEEPER/ Mothers helper. Housecleaning/ childcare. 30-40 hrs/week. Own car, Italian speaker. Preferred. Start 8/16. 510-420-1203.

LOOKING for Oakland Hills childcare, weekday position. Ages 5-9. Excellent written and verbal communication abilities, personal maturity and professional focus, and analytical skills. Please send resume and salary history in confidence to Larry Ginsburg. 510-339-1611, or send via email to LPGP@att.net.

NANNIES Many jobs, full-time, part-time, live-in/ live-out. No fees. Moms Away, 559-9195.

NANNIES NEEDED Full-time, part-time. \$9-\$12/hr. Refs, exp'd, car req'd. No fee. 339-3380. Be In Our Care Nanny Agency.

PART-TIME Nanny, 1 child, Monday-Friday, 4pm-7pm. Excellent references, speak English, drive own car. Car allowances. Call 482-5106.

PEDMONT: Part-time child-care mother's helper for family with charming 4 year old boy and new baby girl. Requirements: fluent English, First Aid and CPR training, C.D.L. and insurance. local references. 510-428-2436.

ADMINISTRATIVE Assistant. Part-time, St. Paul's School. Admissions office. Resume to: 116 Montclair Ave., Oakland, 94610.

ADMINISTRATIVE Assistant. Full-time. We have excellent benefits and are conveniently located near BART. Candidates must have 1+ years of experience with 12 ECE units. Salary determined by experience.

PRE-SCHOOL DIRECTOR for pre-school component. Min AA or BA in early childhood education w/ 24 ECE units. Candidates must have a developmental philosophy, experience in curriculum development, staff training/ supervision, excellent communication skills, be able to work with diverse families. CEC has excellent salary and benefits.

Send resume to: Child Education Center, Personnel Committee, 1414 Sacramento, Berkeley, CA 94702. Fax: 510-528-1899.

AIDE/ Attendant for physically disabled male student. Call Piedmont Unified Schools. 510-594-2611, EOE.

402 Domestic & Caregivers CAREGIVERS IMPORTANCE paid to responsible, experienced, compassionate. Certified Nurses Aides, Home Aides, housekeepers/ companions. Immediate hourly to Part-time live-in care. A Caring Connection, 524-8076.

LIVE-IN strong caregiver for woman in wheel chair with MS. Duties include exercise, lifting, plant/ pet care, light housekeeping, driving. C.D.L. required. Private room in North Oakland Hills home. \$1000/ month/ salary. 510-841-4211.

VERY strong, extremely reliable, experienced caregiver for woman with long time MS. References required. 510-428-1037.

403 Help Wanted

Accounting

PAYROLL ACCOUNTING CLERK Full-time in busy home care agency. Requires 1+ year experience (AP preferred), excellent computer skills (Office 97) and administrative skills. Fax resume and cover letter to: Family Home Companions, 1942 Embarcadero, Oakland, CA 94606. 510-261-4700.

Child Education Center Personnel Committee, 1414 Sacramento, Berkeley, CA 94702. Fax: 510-528-1899.

AIDE/ Attendant for physically disabled male student. Call Piedmont Unified Schools. 510-594-2611, EOE.

403 Help Wanted

ACCOUNTS Payable Heavy duty computerized accounting system. Understanding of basic accounting a must. 2 years experience preferred. Fax resume. 510-527-3520.

ADMIN ASSIST. Established Firm is seeking a P/T office assistant. Excellent entry opportunity. Duties include maintaining legal files, dictation, errands, bookkeeping, etc. Friendly and supportive staff in lovely Alameda office. Fax resume. 510-865-4586.

ADMIN ASSIST. Established Firm is seeking a P/T office assistant. Excellent entry opportunity. Duties include maintaining legal files, dictation, errands, bookkeeping, etc. Friendly and supportive staff in lovely Alameda office. Fax resume. 510-865-4586.

ADMINISTRATIVE Assistant Premier children's wear company is seeking a pleasant, organized and thorough individual. Fax resume to 510-352-3553.

ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER Continual Recruiting in Marketing, Operations, Personnel, IT or P/T time school. MS Office, Engineering Firm seeks Professional and Articulate People with College Degrees. Peter R. Thoms & Associates, 304 Village Square, Orinda, CA 94663. Fax: 925-254-1650.

ADMINISTRATIVE Assistant P/T, must have good organizational skills, excellent computer skills, MS Office, attention to detail. Fax resume to 510-428-0661.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE MANAGER Established 5 person office. Financial services and investment firm in Montclair Village business district seeks office manager; smart, energetic, well-organized, computer literate individual, with VLS 60 proficiency and MS Office Suite, a facility with spreadsheets, 65 wpm keyboarding, and dictation equipment skills. Must have excellent written and verbal communication abilities, personal maturity and professional focus, and analytical skills. Please send resume and salary history in confidence to Larry Ginsburg. 510-339-1611, or send via email to LPGP@att.net.

ADMINISTRATIVE Assistant part-time, St. Paul's School. Admissions office. Resume to: 116 Montclair Ave., Oakland, 94610.

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Send resume to: Child Education Center, Personnel Committee, 1414 Sacramento, Berkeley, CA 94702. Fax: 510-528-1899.

AIDE/ Attendant for physically disabled male student. Call Piedmont Unified Schools. 510-594-2611, EOE.

403 Help Wanted

ADMINISTRATOR/ INSIDE SALES L.B. Foster Company is looking for an Administrator/ Inside Sales Person based in the Hayward, CA sales office. Responsibilities include general office administration, typing, data entry, answering phones, assisting sales staff in all aspects of the inquiry and order process to include, at times, direct sales involvement. Candidates must have at least three years related experience, be proficient in PC applications, with above average typing skills and math aptitude. Good organizational skills required and ability to handle multiple tasks.

Please send resume and salary requirements in confidence to:

Manager/ Employment L.B. FOSTER COMPANY P.O. BOX 2806, Pittsburgh, PA 15230. Fax: 412-923-3422. kmcgale@worldnet.att.net EOE/M/F/H/V

ADMINISTRATIVE Assistant Premier children's wear company is seeking a pleasant, organized and thorough individual. Fax resume to 510-352-3553.

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AIDE/ Attendant for physically disabled male student. Call Piedmont Unified Schools. 510-594-2611, EOE.

403 Help Wanted

AIDES Instructional and Special Ed Apply Piedmont Unified Schools, 760 Magnolia Ave. Piedmont 94611. EOE.

Administrative Assistant Alameda Chamber of Commerce is seeking a Full-time Administrative Assistant. Strong organizational & interpersonal skills, computer proficiency, self-starter and able to work independently. Salary plus benefits. Fax resume to (510) 522-7677. Attention: CEO.

ADMINISTRATIVE Assistant Premier children's wear company is seeking a pleasant, organized and thorough individual. Fax resume to 510-352-3553.

ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER Continual Recruiting in Marketing, Operations, Personnel, IT or P/T time school. MS Office, Engineering Firm seeks Professional and Articulate People with College Degrees. Peter R. Thoms & Associates, 304 Village Square, Orinda, CA 94663. Fax: 925-254-1650.

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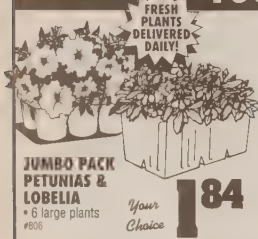
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Send resume

SUMMER DEALS ARE

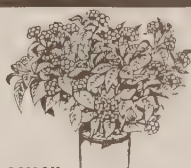
Smokin' AT YardBIRDS HOME CENTER

YOUR #1 LAWN AND GARDEN CENTER



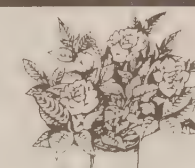
JUMBO PACK PETUNIAS & LOBELIA
• 6 large plants
#930

184



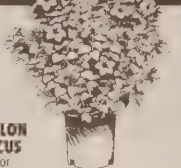
1 GALLON LANTANA
• Colorful perennial
• Ground cover & shrub varieties
#5200

327



1 GALLON GARDENIA
• Variegated variety
#330100

347



1 GALLON HIBISCUS
• Good for screening, containers, or excellent background plant
• Plant in full sun
• Budded and blooming
#30910725

397

DECORATE AND LANDSCAPE



AUGUSTA 3-PIECE BISTRO SET
• 2 chairs
• 1 table
#30191201

\$99



10 LIGHT TIER LIGHT LOW VOLTAGE KIT
KIT INCLUDES:
• 10-tier lights
• 1-44 watt transformer timer
• 50' low voltage cable
#301910725

18⁹⁷



20 LIGHT COMBINATION LOW VOLTAGE KIT
KIT INCLUDES:
• 6 flood lights, 14-tier lights
• 1-88 watt transformer timer
• 100' low voltage cable
#30191201

36⁹⁷



NELSON RAIN SHOWER OSCILLATING SPRINKLER
• Up to 40' x 62' coverage
(2,500 sq. ft.)
• Made in U.S.A.
#1015

5⁶⁷



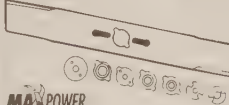
NELSON RAIN DATE AUTOMATIC WATER TIMER
• Shuts off water automatically
• Set from 3 hours to 30 minutes of watering
#5200

9⁹⁹



MA POWER LAWN DETHATCHER KIT
• Convert your rotary power mower into a power rake in minutes
• Loosens and removes dead grasses (thatch)
• Allows moisture, fertilizer and air to penetrate and revitalize your lawn
#330100 (fits most mowers)

5⁷⁹



MA POWER REPLACEMENT MOWER BLADES
• 19" #33-1035
• 20" #33-1040
• 21" #33-1045
• 22" #33-1050
• 23" #33-1055
Your Choice

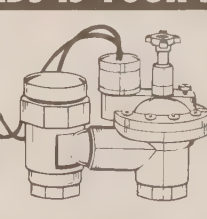
5⁹⁹

YARDBIRDS IS YOUR SPRINKLER HEADQUARTERS



Orbit METAL HEAD 4" POP-UP SPRINKLER
• Adjustable nozzle from 35° to 360° and metal top
• Heavy duty spring & wider seal
#54115

2⁹⁹



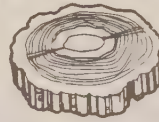
Orbit 3/4" ELECTRIC ANTI-SIPHON VALVE
• Patented design with anti-siphon vacuum breaker prevents backflow
• Built-in - easy to service & replace
#57023P

9⁴⁵



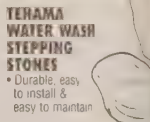
Orbit 4-STATION SPRINKLER TIMER
• 4 stations water from 1-99 minutes
• Flexible day schedule
• 3 watering starts per day
#57114

18⁹⁷



14" SEQUOIA STONE STEPPING STONES
• Authentic redwood like stepping stone
#3400

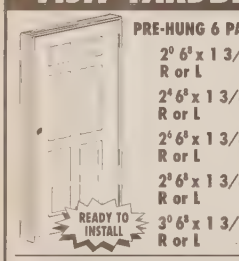
3⁹⁹



TEHAMA WATER WASH STEPPING STONES
• Durable, easy to install & easy to maintain
#3400

4⁵⁷

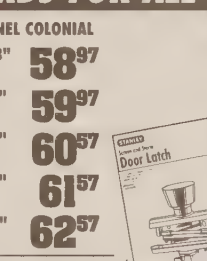
VISIT YARDBIRDS FOR ALL OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD PROJECTS



PRE-HUNG 6 PANEL COLONIAL
2' 6" x 1 3/8" R or L **58⁹⁷**
2' 6" x 1 3/8" R or L **59⁹⁷**
2' 6" x 1 3/8" R or L **60⁵⁷**
2' 6" x 1 3/8" R or L **61⁵⁷**
3' 0" x 1 3/8" R or L **62⁵⁷**



KELLEHER CORPORATION PRE-PRIMED MDF MOULDING
2 1/4" REVERSIBLE BASE BOARD PRE-PRIMED #MD212PR **31⁶⁷**
1 5/8" BEVELED DOOR CASINGS PRE-PRIMED #MD216PR **40⁶⁷**
2 1/4" COLONIAL CASINGS PRE-PRIMED #MD218PR **50⁶⁷**
3 1/4" CORONADO BASE PRE-PRIMED #MD221PR **59⁶⁷**
3 5/8" CROWN MOULDING PRE-PRIMED #MD226PR **73⁶⁷**

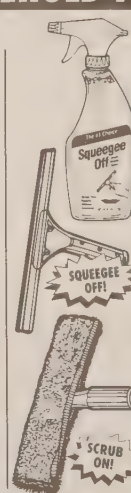


STANLEY SCREEN & STORM DOOR LATCH
• For use on wood or metal screen
• Easy to install
• Aluminum white or black
#CD1703

SCREEN & STORM DOOR PNEUMATIC CLOSER
• Replaces most screen and storm door closers
• Aluminum, white or black
#CD1708

SCREEN & STORM DOOR PUSH BUTTON LATCH
• For use on wood or metal screen & storm doors
• Weather resistant
• Aluminum white or black
#CD1704

8⁹⁷



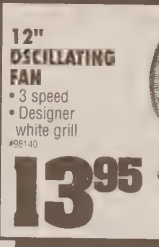
ETTORE 24 OZ. SQUEEGEE OFF WINDOW CLEANING SOAP
• Ready to use
• Biodegradable
#30124

ETTORE 8" STAINLESS STEEL WINDOW SQUEEGEE
• Cleans glass, tile & mirrors
#11109

ETTORE 10" WINDOW SCRUBBER
• For washing windows before you squeegee
#60103

4⁹⁹

"COOL" ELECTRICAL BUYS



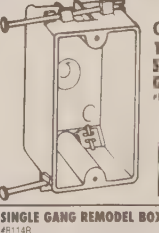
12" OSCILLATING FAN
• 3 speed
• Designer white grill
#98140

13⁹⁵



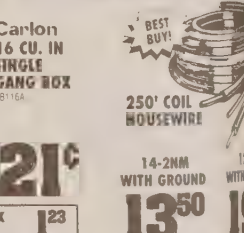
16" OSCILLATING FLOOR FAN
• 3 speed
• Adjustable
#98140

19⁹⁷



Carlton 16 CU. IN. SINGLE GANG BOX
#B116A

21⁶⁷



250' COIL HOUSEWIRE
• 14-2NM WITH GROUND
• 12NM WITH GROUND
#123

13⁵⁰

PAINT, PROTECT AND PRESERVE



DAP 12 PACK ALEX PAINTER'S LATEX CAULK
• 25 year durability guaranteed
#18068

9⁴⁸



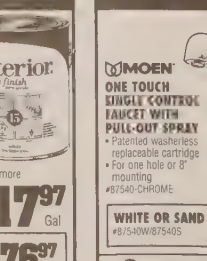
Blond exterior latex flat paint
• 100% acrylic
• Use on vinyl siding, aluminum siding and masonry
• Specially formulated for long-lasting durability & beauty in all climates
15⁹⁷ Gal.

67⁹⁷



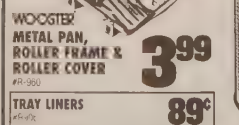
Blond exterior latex satin finish paint
• 100% acrylic
• Use on vinyl siding, aluminum siding and masonry
• Specially formulated for long-lasting durability & beauty in all climates
16⁹⁷ Gal.

72⁹⁷



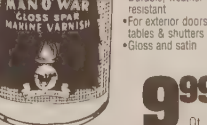
Blond exterior latex semi-gloss paint
• 100% acrylic
• Use on vinyl siding, aluminum siding and masonry
• Specially formulated for long-lasting durability & beauty in all climates
17⁹⁷ Gal.

76⁹⁷



WOODSTER METAL PAN, ROLLER FRAME & ROLLER COVER
#R-360

3⁹⁹



Man O'War SPAR VARNISH
• Durable, weather resistant
• For exterior doors, tables & shutters
• Gloss and satin
9⁹⁹ Qt.

9⁹⁹



OLYMPIC CLEAR WOOD PRESERVATIVE
• Repels water
• Mildew resistant
• Penetrating linseed oil
• Fights rot and decay
11⁹⁷ Gal.

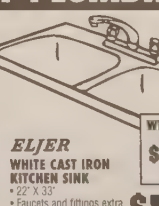
11⁹⁷

QUALITY PLUMBING PROJECTS



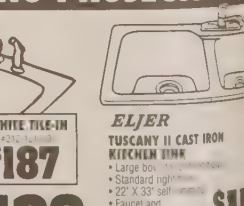
MOEN ONE TOUCH SINGLE CONTROL FAUCET WITH PULL-OUT SPRAY
• Patented washless replaceable cartridge
• For one hole or 8" mounting
#87540-CHROME

169



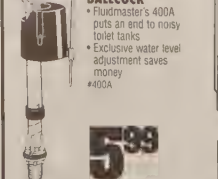
ELJER WHITE CAST IRON KITCHEN SINK
• 22" x 33"
• Faucets and fittings extra
• Color extra
• Self-rimming
#212-1089-00

138



ELJER TUSCAN II CAST IRON KITCHEN SINK
• Large bowl
• Standard right-hand faucet
• 22" x 33" self-rimming
• Faucet and fittings extra
• White
#212-3246-00

150



FLUIDMASTER, INC. 400A BALLCOCK
• Fluidmaster's 400A puts an end to noisy toilet tanks
• Exclusive water level adjustment saves money
#400A

5⁹⁹



STERLING BY KOHLER 32" WHITE SWIRL GLOSS REMODEL SHOWER STALL
• Textured swirl gloss finish
• Color & strength molded clear through
\$238

298



30 GALLON NATURAL WATER HEATER
#123

123

WE DELIVER! SEE STORE FOR DETAILS

YardBIRDS HOME CENTER

Prices may vary after 7-28-99 if there are market variations. We reserve the right to limit quantities to the amount reasonable for homeowners and our regular contractor customers.

STORE HOURS: MON.-FRI. 7-8, SAT. 8-8, SUN. 8-8



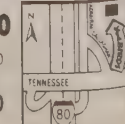
CONCORD
5400-Z YGNACIO VALLEY RD
925-672-2790



ALAMO
3211 DANVILLE BOULEVARD
925-837-5038



SAN PABLO
13901 SAN PABLO AVENUE
510-236-4630



VALLEJO
510-236-4630

Real Estate & Home

The Berkeley Voice, The Journal

July 22, 1999

Section C

Mark Wilson Neighborhoods fight for preservation ordinances [C5]
Open Homes If you were reading this, you'd be home by now [C14]

Shingles, roof take toll on 'green revolution'

Ongoing series charts highs, lows in ambitious eco-renovation project

Part four of six

Nothing beats putting your money where your mouth is. In this series, we take an 85-year-old home and rethink it as an eco-renovation. We'd hoped to use the "greenest" materials and methods. Sometimes it didn't work.

Building envelope materials

Replacing the exterior shingles on my house was an environmental disappointment. At first, we removed only the shingles necessary to replace the old windows. I tried to salvage the best of them for re-use but they turned out to be too old and brittle.

Later, the shingle subcontractor revised his quote and recommended replacing all shingles on the addition rather than patching. He special-ordered two pallets of extra-long cedar shingles to match the old ones. I didn't check the pedigree of this wood and I didn't find

Home Front

By Pam Chang



Pam Chang

Successes are tempered by occasional disappointments. But with a clear vision, there's always tomorrow...

any better alternative.

The roof also was somewhat of an environmental disappointment. Research pointed toward cement shingles or corrugated cement panels as good roofing

See REVOLUTION, Page C8



WORKERS re-roof the author's 85-year-old Berkeley home. The plan was to keep as many original shingles as possible, but the material was too brittle. Extra-long cedar shingles top the job.



COLDWELL BANKER

The Premier Real Estate Company in Northern California



57 WILDWOOD AVE......\$489,000
 Piedmont, sunny traditional fixer-upper, first time on market in over 58 yrs. 4BD/2BA, spacious living & dining rooms. Eat-in kitchen, hwd flrs, patio & pool.
Dian Hymer



ROCKRIDGE!.....\$449,000
 Charming 3BD/2BA home with a Mediterranean flair. Freshly painted and gleaming newly refinished hardwood floors.
Michael Thompson

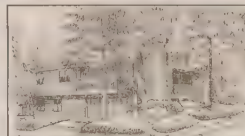
OPEN SUN. 2-4:30

889 ALMA PLACE.....\$329,000
 Crocker Highlands Mediterranean fixer-3BD/1.5BA, woodwork, fireplace, eat-in kitchen, sunny rooms, level yard. Has potential.
Ruth Lockhart

3393 VICTOR.....\$269,000
 Redwood Heights! 2BD/2BA, incl. master suite, updated kitchen & baths. 2 car garage, level yard on upper level. Oakland hills view. Private feel.
Ruby Ng/Karen Lum

3945 HARRISON ST. #31.....\$269,000
 Piedmont Avenue. Price reduced. Unique approx. 2,000 sq. ft. condo. 2+BD, 2 pkg. decks, views. Near Piedmont Ave. Motivated sellers! Buyer opportunity.
Pat Whittingslow

4030 RHODA AVENUE.....\$244,000
 Lincoln Heights: Light and level, one owner home. 2BD/2BA. Hwd flrs, fireplace. Enclosed sun porch. Attached garage.
Rachel Baller



ENCHANTING BERKELEY BROWN SHINGLE.....\$550,000
 Come home to this beautiful temporary in a most sought after neighborhood! Magical setting! In-law, outdoor living! 4BR/3BA, in-law potential. Swim club membership incl.



SPACIOUS & SOLID IN BERKELEY.....\$465,000
 Elegant level-in 3BR/2BA with Tilden view! Will please anyone looking for space! Lg. area with built-in carpenter's workshop! French doors lead to garden! 2-car garage!

FIRST OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30

180 RISHELL DRIVE.....\$339,000
 Crestmont Gem: Expansive Bay view. 3BD/2.5BA. Baths recently updated. Eat-in kitchen. Large level rear yard. Sharp!
Becky Anderson

6281 VALLEY VIEW.....\$339,000
 Montclair: Country in the city. 3BD/2BA, level yard. View of the hills. Au Pair w/ separate entrance.
Victor Ratto

BY APPOINTMENT

CUSTOM MASTERPIECE.....\$1,750,000
 Located on almost 3/4 acre bluff overlooking the greater bay area. 180° views, indoor pool, waterfall, and private master suite. Gated entrance with circular driveway. A rare find.
George Karsant

CROCKER HIGHLANDS.....\$399,000
 Soaring beamed ceilings, gleaming hwd flrs, updated kit & BA, formal liv & din rms, lg plus rm & 3BD/2BA
Dell Orr

MONTCLAIR.....\$369,000
 Two decks w/ canyon views. 5BD/3BA, 2 car garage. Was rebuilt in 1996.
Jack Brenneman

MONTCLAIR - NEAR VILLAGE.....\$349,500
 Popular location. 3+ BD/3BA w/ sep home office/studio, hardwood floors, 3 fireplaces, garage, patio/gdn.
Pat Whittingslow

ROCKRIDGE BUNGALOW.....\$314,000
 French doors from kitchen to private deck/patio area. Close to shopping & BART station. 2+BD/1BA.
Ruby Ng/Karen Lum

OAKLAND TRIPLEX.....\$225,000
 Near Kaiser Hospital. Contractor's special. 2 story level yd. Much potential!
Ruby Ng/Karen Lum

FRESH & BRIGHT.....\$189,000
 2BD Laurel/Diamond bungalow, wood floors, lg eat-in kit, new roof, pest work done, deck, basement storage.
Vicky Faulk

JOAQUIN MILLER - 2 LOTS.....\$79,000-\$89,000
 2 irregular shape - beautiful wooded settings.
David Eckert

GRAND OLD BERKELEY CHARMER.....\$449,000
 Elegant and grand Arts & Crafts style home. 4+BR, 2BA, parlors, sunrooms, just loads of space! Beautiful original detailing, full basement and large yard. Great N. Berkeley location

GORGEOUS GOURMET GHETTO REMODEL.....\$455,000
 JUST LISTED! Special, custom touches in this delightful 3+ BR/2 bath home, just a short walk from Walnut Square. Handsome marble baths, gleaming hardwood flrs, lovely kitchen, vaulted ceiling in master. Plus a deep, park-like yard w/ fruit trees and BBQ.

SUNSETS OVER THE BAY.....\$399,000
 Sip your coffee on the deck of this home in the Berkeley hills. This home has a bonus room off master suite & 2 1/2 bath & a remodeled kitchen, & deep yard with level terrace.

CHARMING BERKELEY DUPLEX.....\$385,000
 JUST LISTED! Both units 2 bedroom, with wonderful, spacious owner's unit with large kitchen, hardwood floors, breakfast room & dining room. Near BART, shopping and Berkeley Bowl.

DARLING NORTH BERKELEY BUNGALOW.....\$299,500
 JUST LISTED! Remodeled kitchen with oak floors and granite counters. 3 bedrooms & remodeled bath. Spacious living room with fireplace. Split-level design, move-in condition, plus garage. Walk to BART, Monterey Market

CHEERFUL BERKELEY HOME.....\$265,000
 Not just a 2BR home, but a really light 2BR with extra space, leading to a fabulous private garden! Built-in BBQ, pear, apple & lemon trees and more! Roof only 1 year. Interior access to garage.

IS IT A HOUSE, OR OFFICES? ...\$285,000
 3+BR/2BA house currently used as 4 offices plus residential income unit. Could easily be converted to house w/ rental unit. Walk to BART, dwntr, or campus.

PICTURE PERFECT IN ALBANY.....\$265,000
 2 bedroom split level bungalow near Albany's Memorial park! Lush, sunny yard! Newer roof & exterior paint. Hardwood floors! Formal dining room, breakfast nook

NOT JUST A 2 BEDROOM HOUSE.....\$265,000
 But really light and sunny 2 bedroom Berkeley home with loads of extra space. Fabulous private garden with built-in BBQ, pear, apple & lemon trees and more. Interior access to garage, roof only 1 year old.

A RARE FIND IN KENSINGTON.....\$249,000
 Beautiful vacant lot! Approximate 12,000 sq. ft. in great area. Build your dream home on this sloping lot. Seller financing available.

WALK TO 4TH ST. SHOPS.....\$239,000
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Call For An Appointment To View These Fine Properties!

Sometimes the strongest foundation comes from the heart

No. 291 in a series
of true experiences in real estate

Sitting around talking with a friend about the price of houses these days got me to telling some old stories. I remembered some clients who owned a house in Rockridge — a listing I'd love to have today — who'd paid too much for it. They wanted to sell, but I had to tell them they'd lose money if they did.

It was in the late 1960s when Sue called me and I went to look at the house. The yard was weedy, the outside shingles were in need of attention and the trim hadn't been painted in a long while. But a large cedar tree sheltered the house from the street and gave it a countryside air. Sue, her partner, Bob, their young child and a large, floppy puppy greeted me and invited me inside.

As they led me through the rooms, Bob talked about himself. He was an artist, he said, and a part-time teacher but, more than that, he was a philosopher. Sue told me nothing about herself; instead she talked about their future. Sue and Bob's plan was to move across the hills to Canyon where they would build themselves a tree house.

The living room, solely furnished with a ragged couch and chair, had old redwood paneling which fortunately, had not been painted. There was a stone fireplace and badly marred oak floors which continued into the dining room and the two bedrooms on the lower floor.

Sue told me that they wanted to sell right away, to get their money back from this house so they could buy a lot in Canyon. A couple of years before they'd been living in an apartment at Ashby and Grove. The rent was low, but when Sue got pregnant and, at the same time, received a sizable inheritance from her grandmother, they'd decided to move.

Because they had the money, they figured they might as well buy a

True Experiences



By Tarpoff and Talbert

house, and they consulted the classified ads in the Berkeley Barb. Not many houses were advertised for sale in the Barb, but this one was. They called the number in the ad and talked to a woman who, it turned out, was the agent and the owner, as well.

They thought the house would do fine — it was much bigger than their apartment — so they asked how much it cost. But when they heard the price, they told the agent/owner that they were sorry but they did not have enough money to buy it.

They thought that would be the end of that, but the woman said they had plenty of money. They could take over her small loan to make up the difference between the price and their cash. And, before they knew it, she'd written up a contract on a piece of binder paper.

Bob and Sue tried to make the woman understand that they weren't making much money; they might not be allowed to take over the loan. But their concerns were brushed. "It will be fine," the woman said. "All you have to do is give me your money." And so they did.

This all happened before people hired professional inspectors to look over houses. Pretty much, in those days, what you got was what you got. The only thing the buyers needed to do, the owner/agent said, was call up the lender; everything else would follow.

It was a small loan, less than a quarter of the sale price, and should have been easy to take over, but it wasn't. The owner was already in arrears on the payments and the buyers didn't have any steady income or any credit. Therefore, the word from the lender was "No."

When they heard this, the buyers immediately went to see the owner and asked for their money back. "I'd help you if I could," the woman said, "but I've already used the money to buy another house."

The buyers figured this was not legal, but they were confused and didn't know what to. They pleaded with the owner for their money. She said that her hands were tied.

A few days later, the buyers got a call from the lender. Someone at the bank had thought it over. The buyers would be allowed to assume the loan after all. No explanation was offered. The buyers never found out what had changed, but they went ahead and bought the house and moved in.

My heart dropped when they told me what they had paid — too much, by a lot. There were many things obviously wrong with the house and, I was sure, others that I couldn't see.

The only bathroom in the house was in the attic. Someone had converted the attic to a third, low-ceiling bedroom and added a bath. Under the sloping eaves, where a bath could hardly crawl in and out, much less stand up, was the tub. If there had ever been another place to bathe downstairs, it wasn't there any more.

And there was dry rot. Splintery, and in some cases still soggy wood in plain sight in the kitchen and near the fireplace. I couldn't bear to look

under the house. When I asked about a termite report, I knew what they'd say: They'd never heard of termite reports, but they did know that the roof was bad.

The kitchen was rough. There was a sink and a stove and a refrigerator but not much else. The hardwood floors, in poor condition, had been made worse by the puppy, and every surface in the house was in need of soap and paint.

The owners waited expectantly for me to tell them what I thought. I'd been steeling myself for this. Still, it was hard to say that the house was not worth nearly what they had paid for it.

"We should have known better," Sue said. "We did try to get our money back when they said we couldn't have the loan," Bob told me again. "What will we do now?" they asked.

"You can stay in the house, wait for it to be worth more," I said. "That will likely take some years. Or, you can sell, but you will either have to sell it yourselves or pay an agent to do it for you. In any case, you won't get all or even most of your money back."

We kept in touch. A few months later they "gave" the house to a friend. The friend paid on the loan; he must have paid the taxes, too. I can't remember now exactly how they worked it out, but they did move to Canyon where they rented a house and seemed to be quite happy.

Then a terrible thing happened. The house they had been renting burned to the ground. They lost everything. There was no insurance because, at least at that time, it was very difficult to get insurance in

Canyon. Insurance companies wouldn't even consider your house unless it had something called wet stand pipes. The rental house had none.

A couple of us gathered clothes and shoes for them and went to visit. They were staying with friends and, although shaken, they celebrated. They were glad to be alive. They said

they would begin again.

Pat Talbert and Ann Talbert are licensed agents and also offer home consulting and coaching. They can be reached at 510-633-4778.

JUNE 1999

SALESPERSON OF THE MONTH



EVELYN WALKER

Born on the fourth of July, Evelyn Walker had something to celebrate this year. She was named Salesperson of the Month of June.

Evelyn has been a Realtor® since 1984, working for Mason McDuffie Realtors prior to joining Coldwell Banker in 1991. She has been diligent in the interests of her real estate clients and the enthusiastic and loyal support of friends, family and customers.

Evelyn is married to Oakland attorney Greg Walker and have two children: Ryan, 21, a senior at UC Santa Barbara, Michael, 18, a student at Devereux California in Barbara. Evelyn and Greg believe in donating extra from their professions, and Evelyn volunteers at the Oakland Association of Realtors and is currently serving as organization's Vice President. If you need assistance in buying or selling a home, give Evelyn a call at 510-339-4778.



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- PENDING -

439 Elysian Fields Dr. Sequoyah Highlands, 4BD/3BA
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Track the risks, benefits of 'tracking stocks' before you buy

Investors can clean up — or wash out — in gamble on divisions within companies

Money Matters

By Leila Gough



Leila Gough

"Investors should not expect the tracking stocks to perform like the parent company stock..."

a separate business. That is because the business represented by the tracking stock is still part of the parent company. Companies usually issue tracking stocks for their high growth divisions.

How do tracking stocks benefit a company?

A tracking stock allows a company's board to align executives' compensation directly with their specific business units. The tracking stock may help illustrate the true performance of individual divisions of a company.

How can tracking stocks benefit investors?

Tracking stocks allow investors

to buy shares in a portion of the business they are most interested in. Companies usually distribute shares of tracking stocks to current shareholders and may issue new shares to the public. Tracking stock shareholders are considered shareholders of the parent company and not of the division being tracked.

What are the risks of investing in tracking stocks?

Not all tracking stocks allow their holders to vote on company matters. Some may provide rights that increase as the division grows in value relative to the parent company.

It is possible that conflicts of in-

terest may arise between the tracking stock division and the parent company. The parent company may choose to compete with the division or make deals with other companies in the same industry.

Investors should not expect the tracking stocks to perform like the parent company stock. A tracking stock should trade in line with revenue growth for the particular unit.

As the tracking stock is still part of the parent company, any significant news affecting the parent company may affect the value of the tracking stock.

Tracking stocks are not necessarily suitable for all investors. Some

investors may have an investment personality and risk tolerance suitable for owning shares of the parent company and others for owning tracking stocks. Your financial consultant can help you determine whether investing in tracking stocks might make sense for your situation.

Leila Gough is an associate vice president with A.G. Edwards in Oakland. She helps clients define and reach their investment goals. She can be reached at 510-273-8851 and by e-mail at leila.gough@agedwards.com.

Peach of a deal at Farmers' Market

Author of 'Bread and Chocolate' will be on hand to sign book, recipes

Summer is finally heating up, and one of the best things that comes with it is ripe peaches. Vendors will be setting up special peach tasting tables at Tuesday and Saturday Berkeley Farmers' Markets. People will be able to experience the sumptuous bounty of a whole market's peach selection at one table.

Look forward also to sampling other stone fruit in season: nectarines, apricots and plums.

Some of the many peach varieties you'll get to taste are Elegant Lady, Summer Lady, White Lady, Summer Sweet, Red Top, Sun Crest, Red

Haven and Nectar.

The Berkeley Farmers' Markets have the best selection of organic produce of Bay area farmers' markets, so almost all of the peaches will be organically grown.

On Saturday, July 24, Fran Gage — best-selling author of "Bread and Chocolate: My Food Life in & Around San Francisco" — will be signing books and recipes.

"This delightful book, a sort of culinary tales of the city, begs to be read — more than once!" says Beth Hensperger, author of "The Bread Bible."

"Fran Gage's charming book of food essays is as irresistible as a warm croissant. Her enviable adventures in food-focused Northern California will remind us why many of us live here," says Janet Fletcher of the San Francisco Chronicle.

According to Nick Malgieri, author of "How To Bake," Fran Gage's prose is "as delicious as her recipes. 'Bread and Chocolate' ranks with the best food writing of the 20th century."

The Farmers' Market is held at Martin Luther King Jr. Way and Center Ave. Call 510-548-3333.

Clarifications

Hills Newspapers strives for accuracy. Sometimes we need to clarify a point. We have been advised of two errors in our July 16 issue.

■ In a story by Pam Chang ("Builder's values set stage in renovation") we misidentified Spitzley Construction carpenter Bill Urban and laborer Adam Ramos in a photo caption. They are on the right and left, respectively.

■ The e-mail address for the Mediterranean gardens Web site referred to by Sean O'Hara ("Gardens connect Bay to points around Earth") is www.support.net/Medit-Plants. (Please note the dash.)

John Snyder, editor

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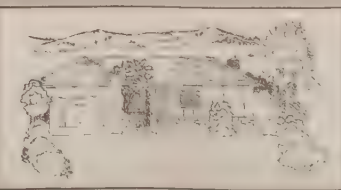
NEW LISTING

1325 WARD ST., BERKELEY\$219,000
Truly adorable "move-inable" 2 bedroom home. Remodeled kitchen. Deck. Level yard.
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Diane Mintz 527-2700.



ENGLISH TUDOR STYLE

HIDEAWAY!\$410,000
The mellow old stone blends perfectly with the surrounding beauty of Wildcat Canyon. Magnificent architect designed Grand Hall dining rm with a step down to living rm features, sconces, custom lighting, columns, rock fireplace, hand sponge painted walls and 12" Italian pavers. Master bdrm loft retreat. Open Sun. 2-4. 5994 McBryde, Richmond.
Merrilyn Rhodes. 527-9111, 559-2928.



FABULOUS BERKELEY INCOME PROPERTY!.....\$875,000

This seven unit income property (including two with 3+ br/2 ba) is located in Berkeley's "Gourmet Ghetto." Old time charm, welcoming garden and large lot. Walk to U.C. Berkeley, shops and restaurants.
Todd Hodson. 527-9111, 559-2915.



EXCEPTIONAL CANYON VIEWS!.....\$259,000

Beautiful and spacious well maintained 4 br/3ba home with a quiet and serene cul-de-sac location. Updated sunny kitchen, formal dining rm, family rm w/fireplace and gorgeous hwdw flrs throughout. Landscaped level yd. w/fruit trees, lawn and garden. Open Sun 2-4.
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\$559,000

233 CARMEL AVENUE

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KURT BUCHHOLZ

\$680,000

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Sunny, central Traditional welcomes you to 3 gorgeous bdrms upstairs, elegant formal living & dining room as well as a family room w/built-ins.
SANDRA VOGL

\$799,000



79 TEMPLAR PLACE

Popular cul-de-sac in upper Rockridge set on 1/4 acre. All level living, 3 bedrooms, new hardwood floors, freshly painted in and out.
CONNIE ROGERS

NEW LISTING \$435,000

6323 CASTLE DRIVE

Spacious contemporary in quiet relaxing setting with view. Great for shared living or in-law setup. No neighbors behind this large lot. JOSEPHINE O'SHAUGHNESSY

NEW LISTING \$499,000

120 CALVERT COURT

Price Slashed! Located in a uniquely serene setting & a wonderful blend of indoor & outdoor living. 3+ bdrm/2 ba, grand living room.
CARIN CAROE

\$629,000

854 WALKER AVENUE

New Listing! Enjoy the expansive feeling of this grand home with spacious with spacious rooms and views, 3+ bdr, make this a special home.
SHEILAGALLAGHER

\$399,000

5631 FERHOFF DRIVE

Just off skyline. Over an acre of gorgeous grounds, 3bdrm, 3 1/2 ba, traditional & stylish, fam rm, level out to the pool & sunny patio.
DONALD GRUBB, JR

NEW LISTING \$629,000

2 SERENO CIRCLE

Contemporary townhome w/sweeping bay & hill views. tastefully updated, and unit, private decks w/spa, 2/2 w/loft, 2-car, fdr, mstr suite.
SHERRY BENNINGER

NEW LISTING \$329,000

64 SONIA STREET

Located in one of the choicest streets in the area 3bdrms, 3 full baths, views of bay and Mt. Tam. Lovely garden and play area for children.
JEAN SIMMONS

NEW LISTING \$510,000

230 DUNCAN WAY

Montclair charmer, hardwood floors, spacious kitch, level to a big yard, 2 bedrooms, 1 bath.
BETTINA BALESTRIERI

NEW LISTING \$295,000

5408 THOMAS AVENUE

Rockridge beauty w/pr. pride of ownership. Hrdwd flrs, 3/1 for liv rm w/brick fp. For din rm w/beveled glass built-ins. Large garden.
MINDY SCOTT

NEW LISTING \$435,000

4159 BAYO

Finally a home that is affordable in this fast moving market! This charming one bedroom offers privacy, affordability & a special place of one's own.
MAVIS DELACROIX

NEW LISTING \$189,000

Piedmont - By Appointment

COUNTRY ESTATE

Historical English Estate with w/sunny gardens and wooded vistas. Level living, spacious formal rooms, European library. 5+ bdrms/5+ba & guest house.
SANDRA VOGL

\$2,495,000

TRADITIONAL

Completely remodeled, cooks kitch w/adjacent fam rm, formal dining rm, hardwood floors, 4 bedrooms, 3 baths including master suite, views & deck.
KURT BUCHHOLZ

NEW LISTING \$699,000

Oakland & Berkeley - By Appointment



SWEEPING VIEWS

Spacious & dramatic newly built home, 4800 sq ft., 6 bedroom, 4bath, circular drive way, 2 master suites, family room, mod eat-in kitchen.
SHERRY BENNINGER

\$869,000

CENTRAL LOCATION

Central converted Victorian 5 unit building, off street parking, storage, great location, walk to Park Street, nice neighborhood.
DEBBI D MAGGIO

\$410,000

GLORIOUS VIEWS

Exquisite custom built home w/breathtaking SF, Golden Gate & Bay views. 6 bdrms/7 1/2 ba, library, fam/media rm on gorgeous knoll-top.
SHERRY BENNINGER

\$2,650,000

CHARMING TERRABELLA TOWNHOME

Sophisticated single family townhome living w/bay views 3bdrm/2 1/2ba w/3decks-one on each level, master bed retreat. European village setting.
JOHN KARNEY

\$319,000

GORGEOUS MONTEREY COLONIAL

Fabulous neighborhood, 5 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath, grand rooms, private back yard, fabulous traditional home and rooms.
DONALD GRUBB, JR

\$794,500

CHARMING BUNGALOW

Charming Glenview bungalow. Centrally located & well maintained. Single level. Hrdwd flrs. 2/2 For liv & din rms. Yard & patio.
MINDY SCOTT

\$299,000

SWEEPING BAY VIEWS

Beautiful contemporary townhome with fabulous bay views, soaring ceiling, natural light, patio & master bedroom retreat.
SHERRY BENNINGER

\$439,000

BUILD YOUR DREAM HOME

Do not miss your opportunity to build your dream home. This expansive upslope lot is located in an established Oakland Hills neighborhood.
SHERRY BENNINGER

\$99,000

STATELY TRADITIONAL

Wonderful stately traditional in upper Crocker Highland. Level yard, 3/2 & big rec room. Great condition. Wood details & craftsmanship.
ED KUO

\$425,000

SWEEPING BAY VIEWS

Behind a simple wooded gate lies a world of seclusion awaiting an owner who appreciates maximum privacy, serenity and sweeping bay views.
MAVIS DELACROIX

\$579,000

SWEEPING CANYON VIEWS

Beautiful contemporary Ridgemont home with sweeping canyon views, elegant master suite, fdr, eat-in kitchen, ind spa w/swim pool.
SHERRY BENNINGER

\$399,000

CHARMING VICTORIAN

Traditional 4 bedroom, 2 bath, formal dining room, pretty windows, hardwood floors, large deck, separate studio cottage, close to UCB.
DONALD GRUBB, JR

\$345,000

For further information

339.0400 or GRUBBCo.com

Healthy communities have respect for the elderly

Bay Area historical societies put region in perspective

From staff reports

New to the Bay Area? Want to get to know it better? We have compiled an overview of must-see historical societies, museums and sites to get you talking the talk and walking the walk. If you're going on our tour, you'd better pack a lunch — with so much to see and to in the Bay Area, this could take a while! Enjoy!

Contra Costa County

Contra Costa County Historical Society. Founded in 1951, the Contra Costa County Historical Society is the county's official historical society. Its archive, the History Center, is in room C-5 at 1700 Oak Park Blvd. in Pleasant Hill. P.O. Box 821, Concord, 94522. 925-939-9180.

Albany

Albany Historical Archives. For years this fascinating collection of photos and documents was in the home of the late Catherine Webb, the city's longtime historian. Today the collection is at the Albany Library, which displays some and has much of the material available for research. 510-526-3720.

Berkeley

Berkeley Historical Society. The society offers walking tours during the Spring and Fall, usually Sunday mornings and runs the Berkeley Historical Society Museum. Permanent and changing exhibits. 1 to 4 p.m. Thursdays through Saturday. 1931 Center St. Free. 510-848-0181.

University of California, Berkeley. One of the state's oldest and most beautiful college campuses, UC-Berkeley spans 1,232 acres. Student-led tours describe the university's history, highlight its architecture, and take visitors to the top of

the 307-foot Campanile. Oxford Street and University Avenue. 510-642-5215. Internet address www.berkeley.edu/news/index.html

Crockett

Crockett Historical Museum. The museum houses old photos of Crockett, Valona, Rodeo and Port Costa, and preserves tools, toys, pins, hats, flatirons, kitchen utensils, and books. Tours by appointment. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesdays and Saturdays. Across the tracks from the C&H Sugar refinery at 906 Loring Ave. 510-787-2178.

El Cerrito

The El Cerrito Historical Society meets on the second Thursday of January, April, July and October. Artifacts and documents can be found at the Public Library, 6500 Stockton Ave. P.O. Box 304, El Cerrito, 94530, or call Art Schroeder at 510-525-0177.

El Sobrante

Dynamite Plant. A few remnants of the old dynamite plant, which started operations in 1881 and gave the city its reason for being, can still be seen between San Pablo Avenue and the Bay. During World War II, the plant produced about a million pounds of dynamite a month and employed around 350 people. The plant closed in the 1970s.

On the hill just above the plant are its former headquarters buildings, and the Historic Clubhouse, which is used for community events.

Pinole

The Pinole Historical Society meets several times a year, runs occasional field trips and publishes a newsletter. The society houses its collection of local newspapers, which date from 1896, at the Pinole Library, and its other collections in a historic caboose at the Fernandez Mansion. Call Nina Zeitler, president, at 510-758-5324.

Downer Mansion. Built in 1905,

this two-story Victorian-style house belonged to Edward M. Downer, who published the Pinole Weekly Times, served as postmaster and city clerk, helped incorporate the city in 1903, founded the Bank of Pinole in 1905, and served as mayor. The home is not open to the public. 2711 San Pablo Ave.

Pinole Valley Park. This attractive 231-acre park (developed in 1986), with playing fields, picnic sites and wooded trails, is more historic than it looks. Huchin Indians lived along the creek before Europeans arrived, and two of the best preserved prehistoric Indian sites in the county are in the park. Ruins of the old Don Ygnacio Martinez adobe are buried in the park to protect it from vandals. Martinez, a military commander, was the original owner of the Rancho El Pinole, which he received

as a land grant from the Spanish. He settled in Pinole in the mid-1820s. Pinole Valley road at Savage Avenue.

Port Costa

The entire tiny town of Port Costa is so historic — and so easy to take in at a glance — it's hard to select a single point as paramount. The town boomed in the 1870s and '80s as a major grain shipping center and filled with hotels, bars and worse.

Remains of the grain wharves and warehouse offices can be found at Carquinez Strait Regional Shoreline. 19th Century commercial buildings and homes remain along Canyon Lake Drive (the Burlington Hotel dates from 1879). The Port Costa School is on the National Register of Historic Places.

Richmond

Richmond History Museum. The Richmond Collection at the Richmond History Museum has a reference collection of historical documents, pamphlets and more, available by appointment by calling Holmes. There is also a collection of books about Richmond and Contra Costa, and a of oral histories of Richmond residents. 325 Civic Center Blvd. 620-6561.

The Richmond Museum. formerly the city's City Library, houses artifacts that tell the history of the greater Richmond area. The modern city goes back to 1855 when a real estate promoter, John Ald, slogging through mud

See ROUNDUP, Page 2

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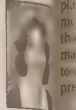











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MIRA GOETSCH 925-837-2200

Country Club Estate.....\$1,050,000
5+BR, 5BA and approx. 5000 sq.ft. between main house, bonus quarters and detached guest cottage. Beautifully landscaped. 56 acre Blackhawk lot on quiet, serene court. Walk in sauna, oversized rock spa and quality features throughout.
TONY CRISTIANI 925-837-2200

Golf Course View.....\$739,000
Former model with 4BR + bonus rm., master suite on 1st level & bonus on 2nd level. Light cabinetry throughout Blackhawk home, formal dining room, great private back yard, and more.
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Developing preservation ordinances

Dozens of Bay Area communities take up debate over historic buildings' fate

Part one of three parts

Owning a Piece of History

By Mark Wilson



Mark Wilson

"There is no prohibition against demolishing a building designated a national landmark..."

which now has more than 1,500 members. This was one of the Bay Area's pioneering preservation organizations, and the Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance that they drafted was passed by an overwhelming margin of nearly 75 percent of the city's voters in the 1974 municipal elections.

Berkeley led the way

Since then, dozens of Bay Area cities have enacted preservation ordinances, and still other cities, such as Palo Alto, are debating whether or how to initiate such laws to protect their own architectural heritage.

Let's take a look at the features of these ordinances, as well as common misunderstandings about their effects on the buildings they were designed to protect.

Changes may follow landmark status

Many property owners assume that any building which is declared an official "historic landmark" by the city, state, or federal government can never be altered in any way after such a designation is made. In most cases, this is not true.

The preservation ordinances ex-

SIGN UP FOR THE WALKING TOUR

Interested in learning more about historic buildings in Berkeley? Join Mark Wilson's next walking tour. The tour will begin at 1:30 p.m. in front of Bernard Maybeck's landmark Hillside Club, at 2286 Cedar St. above Spruce.

The fee is \$10 per person, payable at the Club. Children under 12 may take the tour for free.

There will be a potluck at a historic Berkeley home afterward. For details and to RSVP, call Mark Wilson at 510-273-9383.

isting in many Bay Area cities for instance, allow for updating, interior remodeling, exterior alterations, and even additions to historic structures that are designated historic landmarks.

Another common misconception about preservation ordinances is that the strongest protections exist for historic structures that are on the National Register of Historic Places, and that buildings on a local landmarks list have the least protection.

Landmarks may be demolished

Actually, just the opposite is true. There are no legal prohibitions against demolishing a building that is a designated national landmark, but there almost always are such restrictions on buildings that have been placed on a city landmarks registry.

To better understand how local preservation ordinances work, let us examine the features of Berkeley's historic preservation ordinance, and the workings of its Landmarks Preservation Commission. The text of the law creating the Landmarks Commission says that its purpose

shall be to the protection of historic sites and structures "which provide for this generation and future generations examples of the physical surroundings in which past generations lived."

Text protects living history

Berkeley's ordinance also states that its purposes include, "The enhancement of property values, the stabilization of neighborhoods," and "the increase of economic and financial benefits to the city and its inhabitants." It also calls for the "The preservation and encouragement of a city of varied architectural styles, reflecting the distinct phases of its history."

To implement these goals, a Landmarks Preservation Commission was established, with nine members appointed by the city council. This commission is empowered "to establish and maintain a list of structures, sites, and areas having a special historical, architectural, or aesthetic interest or value."

See PRESERVE, Page C13

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sundays through Labor Day

Oakland's newest city landmark is Chapel of the Chimes Crematorium, Columbarium and Mausoleum located at the end of Piedmont Avenue. Docent-guided tours are offered every Sunday at 1:30 p.m. through Labor Day weekend. Discover the art, architecture, artifacts, artisans and architects and 111 rooms that have made this the largest and most elegant columbarium in North America. Call 510-594-4725.

Wednesday, July 21

"How to Build Your Dream House For a Song" (and own it free and clear in five years) seminar led by author/contractor/owner-builder David Cook. The Building Education Center, 812 Page Street, West Berkeley. From 7 to 10 p.m., \$35.

Saturday, July 24

"Drywall Textures" hands-on workshop taught by builder/designer Andrus Brandt. The Building Education Center, 812 Page Street, West Berkeley. From 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; fee: \$45.

"Kitchen Design" seminar instructed by Beverly Wilson, independent kitchen and bath designer. The Building Education Center, 812 Page Street, West Berkeley. From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., \$75.

Sunday, July 25 through Tuesday, July 27

Wildflower and landscape photography. Three-day workshop led by professional photographer Steven Rulley. Focuses on Hope Valley and Carson Pass. For beginners or advanced amateurs. Learn about the techniques and problems unique to outdoor photography. For details and equipment list, call 925-449-2245.

Sunday, July 25

"Portable Power Tools for Beginners" hands-on workshop led by architect Joyce Royt. The Building Education Center, 812 Page Street, West Berkeley. From 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., \$90.

Monday, July 26 to Saturday, July 31

Annual six-day intensive "Homeowners Essential Course: How to Build, Remodel and Maintain Your Home," instructed by builder Glen Kitzberger. The Building Education Center, 812 Page Street, West Berkeley. From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. \$425 per person includes two textbooks (Building Your Own House, Volumes 1 and 2).

Wednesday, July 28

"Attic Conversations" seminar led by builder/designer Andrus Brandt. The Building Education Center, 812 Page Street, West Berkeley. From 7 to 10 p.m., \$35.

Saturday, July 31

"Wallpaper Hanging" hands-on workshop instructed by professional Stan Felicia Grabowski from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Fee is \$90. Please call 510/525-7610 for information.

Saturday, July 31 and Sunday, August 1

"Hardwood Floor Refinishing" Hands-on workshop conducted on-site by artisan Tim Margetti. The Building Education Center, 812 Page Street, West Berkeley. From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., \$180.

Ongoing

Credit counseling. Consumer Credit Counseling Service, a nonprofit community service organization in Oakland has a series of free workshops. Registration is mandatory. Call (800) 501-SAVE.

See EVENTS, Page C13

OPEN SUNDAY 2-4:30

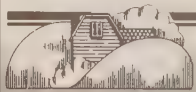


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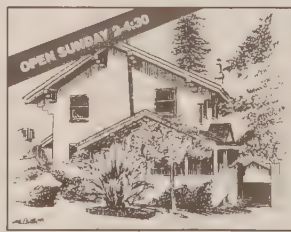
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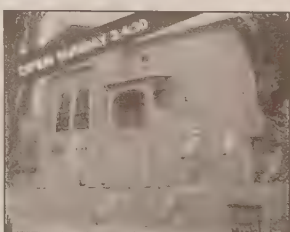
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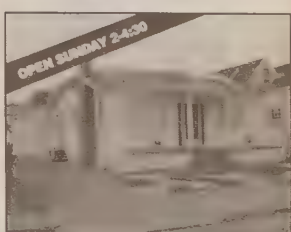
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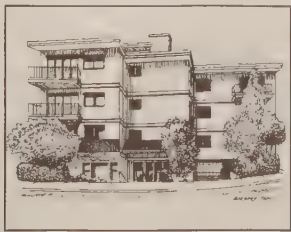
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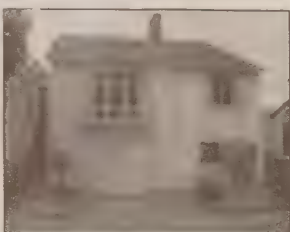
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Are you an 'as-is' kind of buyer?

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When a property is sold "as is," it usually means the seller won't warrant the condition of the property. The buyer buys the property in its current condition. And the buyer takes responsibility for correcting any defects.

Probate and foreclosure sales are often "as is" sales. In both cases, the seller acquired the property through adverse conditions. In the case of a probate sale, the previous owner died and the property is being sold to settle the estate.

With a foreclosure sale, the previous owner stopped making mortgage payments and the property is now being sold by the lender.

In this kind of sale, you may be buying from a seller who doesn't have any knowledge about the property condition. There may or may not be reports available. Even if the seller has reports, have the property thoroughly inspected before you buy.

The benefit of buying "as is," even if the property is in poor condition, is that you'll pay a lower price than you would if the property was in better condition. The costs of sale that are determined by the sale price, such as transfer taxes, will be lower. And your property taxes might be lower. Another benefit is that you'll be

Real Estate Forum

By Dian Hymer



Dian Hymer

Risky venture has rewards—but not for the faint of heart.

in control of rehabilitating the property, so the fix-up work will reflect what you want in the home, not someone else's taste. However you'll need to pay for the improvements.

Carefully investigate the renovation costs so that you don't overpay for a run-down property. "As is" buyers who are planning to make big modifications to a property should check with the local planning department to make sure that their plans are realistic.

Some cities have strict design review requirements that homeowner's must satisfy before renovating their homes. In addition, plan on the pro-

ject costing more than you anticipate.

Often buyers buy "as is" regarding a specific item, rather than buying the entire property on an "as is" basis.

Let's say that the deck is dry rotted and termite infested. It needs to be replaced. The seller is willing to have the work done. But the buyers don't want the deck replaced as it is. They want to expand it and add French doors leading from the kitchen to the deck.

It's unreasonable to expect sellers to pay for buyers' remodeling projects. However most sellers will reduce the sale price by the amount of the seller's deck replacement bid if the buyers take the deck "as is." The buyers get a lower purchase price and they gain control over the project. They also have to pay for it.

For buyers who are short on cash, it might be better to ask the sellers to give a cash credit at closing (called a closing cost credit) for the amount of the seller's deck bid. The sale price is not reduced, but the buyers receive cash at closing that can be used for the deck work.

Check with your lender regarding a closing cost credit. Most lenders

will allow such a credit, but there are limitations. For instance, the credit usually can't exceed three to six percent of the purchase price.

And, it usually can't exceed the total amount of the buyers' nonrecurring closing costs (closing costs paid on a one-time only basis, such as mortgage points).

Buying "as is" is not recommended for first-time buyers, or for any buyer who can't cope with the additional work-load and stress that goes along with remodeling.

Dian Hymer is a top-producing broker associate with Coldwell Banker in the Montclair/Piedmont

office and author of "Selling a Home in 'Starting Out, The Buyer's Guide," both cle Books. Order copies Chronicle books: (800)

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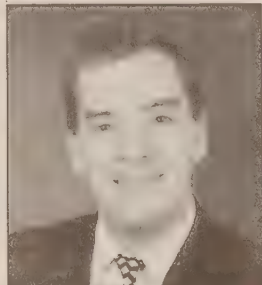
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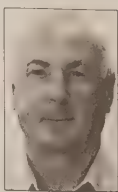
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'You want to do what?' Maybe it's crazy enough to work

Firm Foundation

By Don Pearman



Don Pearman

"I am so impressed with this procedure that I am going to do my own deck using this method."

had done during his naval career.

Two years after we had finished the job to the complete satisfaction of the owner, he asked me to redo his back porch. When I asked him if he wanted the surface level as he had done with the front porch, he broke down, almost in tears, and admitted that I had been right and that he was tired of sweeping water off of the front porch.

This story has been my "You want to do what?" story.

When a client says that he wants to try some procedure that I don't think much of, I make sure I express the reasons why. I also offer alternatives. If the client still wants it, and it's not illegal or immoral, I do it the client's way.

When I was asked to rebuild a deck in Oakland, the structure in question

turned out to be cantilevered out over a hillside with no supports underneath.

The client, a retired chemist, was extremely detail-oriented, and she would apply any and all details that she had read, heard or thought of to the project.

She had ordered a particularly brittle type of porcelain tile for the surface of the deck and figured it would be wonderful. Remember that this deck was, and is, cantilevered with no supports out over a hillside.

I worried that the deflection caused by the deck would either crack the tiles or cause the grout lines to deteriorate and become a constant maintenance problem. I have seen tile in bathrooms where the combination of a lightweight floor and people walking on the floor will cause enough deflection to separate the tile from the floor underneath.

Deflection is a movement created by the live load, which is usually a human or other heavy mammal moving across the surface, causing it to bounce up and down, somewhat imperceptibly, but still bounce.

In a wood deck, the wood will give and make a few creaking sounds, but won't deteriorate because of the deflection.

Tiles, on the other hand, don't respond well to deflection.

We were also doing other procedures for this client, and the deck

was put on hold until some future date. We both became comfortable with what she wanted and what I could deliver. I expressed my misgivings about tile on a cantilevered deck, told her my Victorian story, and many months later came up with a procedure that I could live with and that she could gamble on.

We added an extra joist onto each of the 16 already-existing joists. We then glued and bolted the new joists onto the floor joists that extended 12 feet back into the house.

The deck portion outside of the house was six feet wide 21 feet long. We also blocked it at the wall junction and 24 inches on center on the deck portion.

On the interior cantilevered portion, we blocked it 48 inches on center. We glued and screwed one-inch plywood onto the joists to make the deck bed.

We flashed and waterproofed the exterior wall-deck connection. This made for a very sturdy, non-deflecting deck platform. We then put a protective membrane on top of the waterproofed platform.

We then installed a grid of No. 3 rebar with expanded metal lath lying

on top of that. Then we poured a light-weight aggregate, high-strength concrete on top of the rebar and metal lath, using a low water content and water-cured the concrete with a soaker hose for seven days.

On Sunday, we rested.

We then spent two months working on the outside of the walls of the house, stuccoing, painting, wiring for outside lights. There were lots of men, ladders, and equipment on this deck at various times, either in combination and all at once.

And deflection would have caused cracks in my concrete, but there were, after two months of work, zero cracks! This made me feel secure enough to thinset the 12-inch porcelain tiles onto the deck.

A metal railing was to be installed on the perimeter of the deck; this had extra blocking at the posts and also a bushing so that when people would lean on the rail they would not cause deflection and affect the porcelain tiles.

It has been two years since the deck was completed and the tile and grout are the same as the day that they were installed. I am so impressed with this procedure that I am going

to do my own deck using this method. I will substitute stone for the tiles.

There are hundreds of stones, tiles, pavers, or other surfaces that can be used successfully for deck surfaces — the secret is proper waterproofing and minimizing the deflection.

Other benefits: the deck will last much longer than plain wood; it will waterproof better than wood; it is more politically correct than sacrificing an old-growth redwood for a deck; and, in a major wildland fire, wood decks are a major fire hazard while stone or tile ones are not.

The difference in cost between a redwood deck and a non-wood surface one of the type I have just described is minor, especially considering that the non-wood surface deck will greatly outlast the wood.

Don Pearman is a northern California contractor and author of "The Termite Report: How to save your home from pests, rot and earthquakes." Address questions to 2001 Hoover Ave., Oakland, CA 94602, or E-mail dpearman@earthlink.net, Web site: donpearman.com.

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SPITZLEY CONSTRUCTION carpenter Bill Urban installs recycled redwood brackets.

Revolution

FROM PAGE C1

choices. Cement is durable, fire-resistant, made from plentiful materials, and environmentally benign. Possibly, I gave in too easily, but I accepted my roofer's recommendation not to use such a slippery material on my 7:12 roof pitch. We used the ubiquitous asphalt shingles, albeit, the more durable fiberglass rather than organic felt ones.

'Leaky windows'

Windows can be a major pathway for buildings to leak heat. Many manufacturers make high-quality windows with good thermal performance. Double glazing (two layers of glass separated by an insulating layer of sealed-in air) is almost a minimum standard.

Some companies offer special "selective" glass coatings that permit only some types of radiant energy to pass. I chose double glazed wood windows having a low-emissivity coating on one glass face.

The "low-E" coating permits sunshine heat to enter from outside but reflects radiant heat back inside.

Later, I learned that the low-E coating blocks the solar rays re-

sponsible for re-charging my solar flashlight.

My choice of windows was mostly an esthetic decision. I chose wood windows both to match the style of the main house and because wood is a good insulator and a renewable material.

Many wood windows are vinyl- or aluminum-clad for easier maintenance; I will have to paint my unclad windows more often as the price I pay for the look I want.

I wish I had been more innovative with insulation choices; time, energy, and money were thin. My contractor, Randy, surfed the Internet and found no sources west-of-the-Mississippi for cotton batt insulation.

So we used standard Fiberglas batt insulation for walls and ceilings. Cellulose insulation, made from recycled newsprint and wastepaper and treated for insect and fire resistance, also sounds promising.

Sprayed on wet, this material adheres to wall studs, piping and wiring and provides a good seal against heat loss. Unfortunately, my test-run for cellulose insulation remains in the future.

We were somewhat innovative with foundation insulation. I had specified Styrofoam boards to line the inside foundation walls and ground in my new crawlspace. Randy had worries about termites

tunneling through the Styrofoam enroute to wood framing. We found no alternate rigid insulation, but we did strike a bargain with a roofing supply company who had an unclaimed order of a product consisting of 2-inch Styrofoam laminated to 1/2-inch cement board. We installed these boards Styrofoam-face down. The cement board protects the Styrofoam from crushing, supports a layer of concrete rubble, and itself serves as thermal mass to store daily heat gains for later release during cooler evenings.

Know your utilities materials

For rough-in plumbing, Randy and I both had a bias against plastic piping. I dislike it because of pollutants created in its manufacture as well as its relative inability to be recycled or easily disposed of. We did not use plastic piping except for the rainwater and storm drain system, and for this, we found used 4-inch diameter drain pipe from a salvage yard.

While re-routing water lines, we found that many of my old galvanized steel pipes were suffering advanced arteriosclerosis. They were half-clogged with rust and so brittle that they cracked when wrenched. I elected to replace them with copper

for greater durability. The L piping for water lines was from the standard type. David Kibbe, in his book Resource Guide, notes that that copper mining and processing raise other ecological and that plastic water pipes be avoided because of problems at joints.

The plumbing found that were conventional although of space limitations the smallest I could find. I saved toilet and a low flow fixture's performance. I am satisfied with the flow fixtures' performance.

My old clothes washer refrigerator have not yet reached end of their lifespans. I would like to replace them with a water-conserving refrigerator. The newest energy-efficient refrigerators eliminate the heat-generating heat storage compartments.

See REVOLUTION

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RICHLAND



Revolution

FROM PAGE C8

My furnace, however, had reached the end of its life. I replaced it with a similar furnace with better efficiency and better insulated ducting.

For electric work, I upgraded much of the old wiring while the walls were open. I chose energy-efficient fluorescent fixtures for general lighting and halogen fixtures for wall sconces.

I also replaced all of the basement light bulbs and the most commonly used light bulbs in the main house with fluorescent ones. The odd-shaped compact fluorescents that screw into incandescent sockets are quite satisfactory.

The light color and quality seem to match the old incandescents. They turn on instantaneously but require a few seconds to reach full intensity. The globular FLG17 bulbs and the thin tubular PL13s are bright enough but their color and delay in start-up require getting used to.

The halogen fixtures are more efficient than incandescents, less efficient than fluorescents, and emit a warm, pleasant light.

Editor's note: This installment of "Chronicle of a green revolution" is a continuation of last week's installment, which ran too long for the available space, making this a six-part series. Next week we'll pick up with part five — a look at how safety concerns affected Pam Chang's renovations on her 85-year-old Berkeley home.

Pamela O'Malley Chang is a Berkeley homeowner, architect, engineer and part-time construction inspector. She works for Hilliard Lau Architects in San Francisco.

County puts free recycling resources to work

The Alameda County Waste Management Authority and Source Reduction and Recycling Board offers the following free resources.

For a copy of any of the following, please contact the Alameda County Recycling Hotline at (877) STOPWASTE (786-7927) or via e-mail at acwma@stopwaste.org.

Alameda County Resource Catalogue

Hot off the press, the Resource Catalogue is a compilation of free resource materials and services available to help Alameda County residents reduce, reuse, recycle and compost.

Betsy Rosenberg, host of the KCBS Radio feature, "Trash Talk," calls the catalogue, "great information for businesses, schools, homeowners and anyone interested in preserving the environment."

■ **Do the Rot Thing: A Teacher's Guide to Compost Activities.** These compost education activities are hands-on and encourage student exploration and learning.

■ **Alameda County Recycling Guide.** A directory of recycling and reuse outlets in and around Alameda County.

■ **Alameda County Recycling Hotline Poster (16" x 22").** Promotional poster illustrating numerous possibilities for recycling or reusing materials in Alameda County.

■ **Business Waste Reduction Guide.** "Re-Think Your Bottom Line" is a 48 page booklet designed to provide assistance to business owners and facility managers by offering practical, cost-saving waste reduction tips and worksheets.

■ **Construction & Demolition Guide.** A reuse and recycling directory for construction and demolition materials.

■ **Food Brochure — "Food - Too**



REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE. Alameda County shows how.

Valuable to Waste." How and where to donate edible food products.

■ **Home Composting Starter Kit.** Includes a home composting bin order form, "how to" brochures for basic composting and worm composting, and a class schedule listing free composting workshops.

■ **Resourceful Purchasing Manual.** Hands-on buyers manual designed to assist public agencies and others to purchase high quality recycled content products.

Teacher assistance

Curriculum and resources for

teachers, such as worm boxes, compost bins, field trips, etc.

The following materials are free to Alameda County residents only:

■ **Video — Do the Rot Thing: The Simple Art of Home Composting.** Demonstrates the basic steps and simple tips that make composting at home fun and easy. Runs 22 minutes.

■ **Video — "Kids Talkin' Trash."** Youngsters learn how to make less garbage by practicing the four Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Rot. Runs 14 minutes.

■ **Video — "Taking Back Our Trash... A Film About Waste."** Illustrates the environmental impact of garbage, highlights recycling and offers basic waste reduction tips. Runs 28 minutes.

Two vacancies on AC Recycling Board

The Alameda County Recycling Board has a second vacancy, in the category of "recycling program operator." Alameda County residents representing an organization engaged primarily in operating recycling programs within the county are eligible to serve.

The Board had previously announced a vacancy in the category of "source reduction specialist," a position open to county residents with demonstrable and substantial experience in the source reduction field.

The Recycling Board operates as a specialized arm of the Alameda County Waste Management Authority. Board members are composed of professional experts in specified ar-

eas of waste reduction selected by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors, and elected public officials, selected by the Waste Management Authority. Board members are paid \$100 per meeting.

The Recycling Board administers the voter-approved Waste Reduction and Recycling Initiative, which levies a \$6 per ton landfill disposal fee that generates approximately \$7 million per year for waste reduction, recycling and curbside collection programs in Alameda County.

Fifty percent of the money is returned to local jurisdictions on a per-capita basis. The balance is appropriated by the Board for county-wide source reduction and recycling programs, public education, recycled product procurement, market development and grants to community organizations.

To be considered for appointment to the Recycling Board, in either the "source reduction" or "recycling program operator" position, qualified applicants should submit a resume and cover letter to Supervisor Wilma Chan, Alameda County Board of Supervisors, 1221 Oak Street, Oakland, CA 94612, attention Rachel Richman.

The deadline for applications for both positions is September 10th, 1999. Minority and female candidates are urged to apply.

— Alameda County Waste Management Authority

For more information, please contact Bruce Goddard at 510-614-1699 or via e-mail at acwma@stopwaste.org.

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3558 JORDAN RD., REDWOOD HEIGHTS\$269,500
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4838 DAVENPORT AVE., OAKLAND - 3BD/1BA\$239,000
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4701 MELDON AVE., MAXWELL PARK - 2+BD/1BA\$235,000
New listing! Charming Tudor w/bonus room, hardwood floors, brkfst room, deck, SF view, yard. Lee Jacobson

2906 DELAWARE, OAKLAND - 3BD/1BA\$199,000
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Great value! 2+BD/1+BA home with North Bay views, formal DR, eat-in kit, hwdw floors, fireplace. Chuck Corwin

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New listing! Sunny, spacious 2BD/1BA unit near shopping & transportation, formal DR, frpl, terrace. Jeffrey Himmel

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MONTCLAIR
New contemporary with 4BD/2+BA, fabulous kitchen/FR, upstairs loft could be 2nd master suite. David Ichikawa



RIDGEMONT
Stately new home bordering acres of rolling hills, lovely finishes, 4BD/2+BA, spacious yard. David Ichikawa



GRAND LAKE
Charming 2BD/1BA Craftsman w/wonderful detailing, complete au pair, FDR, huge enclosed gdn. Carolyn Jones

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When is a licensee not an agent? Know the rules

An agent by popular definition is not the same as an agent by a legal definition — and it matters

Although real estate agents play a critical role in most home sales transactions, buyers' and sellers' representatives are not always clear about who they represent and what their legal duties are. A cynic might say that, as they don't get paid unless the deal closes, they represent themselves.

A more common-sense approach suggests that they represent the seller as the seller pays the commission. The law reflects both of these opinions — so how does the law regard the role played by real estate licensees?

Licensee or agent?

Let's begin by distinguishing between a licensee and an agent. In common usage, these terms are interchangeable. From a legal perspective, however, a licensee does not become an agent until he, she or it is hired by a principal (a buyer or a seller) to represent that party's interests vis a vis the other.

In addition, only a licensed real estate broker can function as an agent. A salesperson must be employed by a broker and functions strictly as a sub-agent of that broker. The broker may be an individual of an entity, such as XYZ Realty Co. In these days of larger and larger real estate brokerage companies, an entity is very likely to be the agent (in the legal sense) in a transaction.

This is extremely important to know when the licensees representing both buyer and seller are employed by the same broker, i.e., agent.

Agents frequently 'entities'

Where does that leave us? An agent (again, in the legal sense) must hold a broker's license and will most often be an entity, not an individual.

The individual salesperson, unless they are broker-owners of their own offices, are merely sub-agents of the broker who employs them and who is, in turn, the agent of record of the parties to the transaction, i.e., the

Real Estate Forum

By Robert Hayes



Robert Hayes

"Don't treat this disclosure as just another piece of paper..."

buyer and the seller.

Is this a good time to break for an Excedrin?

Agency relationships

Agency relationships are created in a number of ways. In the case of sellers, the execution of an Exclusive Authorization and Right to Sell listing contract between seller and broker typically initiates the relationship.

Here, the seller hires the broker for a specified period and commits to paying a commission upon procurement by the broker of a ready, willing and able buyer on the price and terms of the listing.

In addition, the listing broker is explicitly designated as at least the seller's agent in any ensuing transaction (the question of the broker also representing the eventual purchaser is usually left open at this point).

With respect to buyers, agency relationships are as often created by a course of conduct as by a written agreement.

If a salesperson undertakes to work for a buyer and encourages that buyer to rely on him or her, the salesperson's employing broker becomes that buyer's agent.

Alternatively, and with increasing frequency, buyers and brokers have begun to establish formal agency relationships between themselves by means of some such written agree-

ment as the California Association of Realtors' form entitled "Exclusive Authorization to Acquire Real Property" which specifies the broker's duties to the buyer, the buyer's duty to work exclusively with that broker for a specified period of time and the agency relationship (single or dual) elected by the parties. (Let's set listing and buyer-broker contracts aside for another day.)

Understanding 'dual agency'

In addition, California statutory law has for the past decade required all 1-4 unit sales to include use of a combination disclosure and confirmation form describing the duties undertaken by the respective licensees and also confirming, in writing, whether the broker is serving as the seller's agent, the buyer's agent, or as the agent of both (so-called "dual agency").

It is very important for buyers and sellers to read this form, entitled Disclosure Regarding Real Estate Agency Relationships, carefully.

Resist the temptation to treat it as just another piece of paper in an already excessively papered transaction.

Among other things, the form tells you what you have a right to expect from your agent by way of legal duties. Thus, it provides that, whether acting for the seller or for the buyer,

the agent owes the principal "a fiduciary duty of utmost care, integrity, honesty and loyalty."

In addition, the form provides that such an agent owes to both parties non-fiduciary duties of reasonable skill and care, honesty and fair dealing, and disclosure of known material facts concerning the property which are not known to either of the parties.

What's all the hubbub?

Why all this concern about understanding whose agent the agent actually is? Because acceptance of agency status by a broker brings with it a fiduciary duty of utmost care. This is a higher level of duty than that borne by a non-agent (again, in the legal sense in which I am discussing it), which usually is described in such terms as "ordinary" or "reasonable" care.

Where "ordinary" crosses over into "utmost" is a question that excites lawyers. For a lay person, the point is simply that a buyer or seller has a right to expect a very high level of service and loyalty from a broker who signs on as a fiduciary.

The form, mandated by California Civil Code Section 2079, makes clear that who is paying the commission does not determine where an agent's loyalties lie.

It also provides for the accept-

ability of dual agency, whereby a broker undertakes to discharge a fiduciary duty of utmost loyalty to both buyer and seller (except with respect to disclosure of confidential information about what price a seller will actually take or what price a buyer will actually pay unless the express permission of the affected party is first obtained).

The practice of dual agency is widespread in the real estate industry. People often think it occurs only when the same person represents both buyer and seller. This is not the case.

As only an employing broker can function as an agent, and the broker is often an entity, a dual agency exists any time the individual licensees representing buyer and seller work for the same broker, even if they work in different branch offices and even if they don't know each other.

It is a situation rife with potential conflicts of interest for the broker. Although perfectly legal, it should be carefully considered when proposed.

Robert Hayes is a real estate attorney in Oakland. He is a former real estate broker and UC Extension Instructor in Real Estate Practice. He can be reached at 510-763-7195 or bobhayes@ix.netcom.com.



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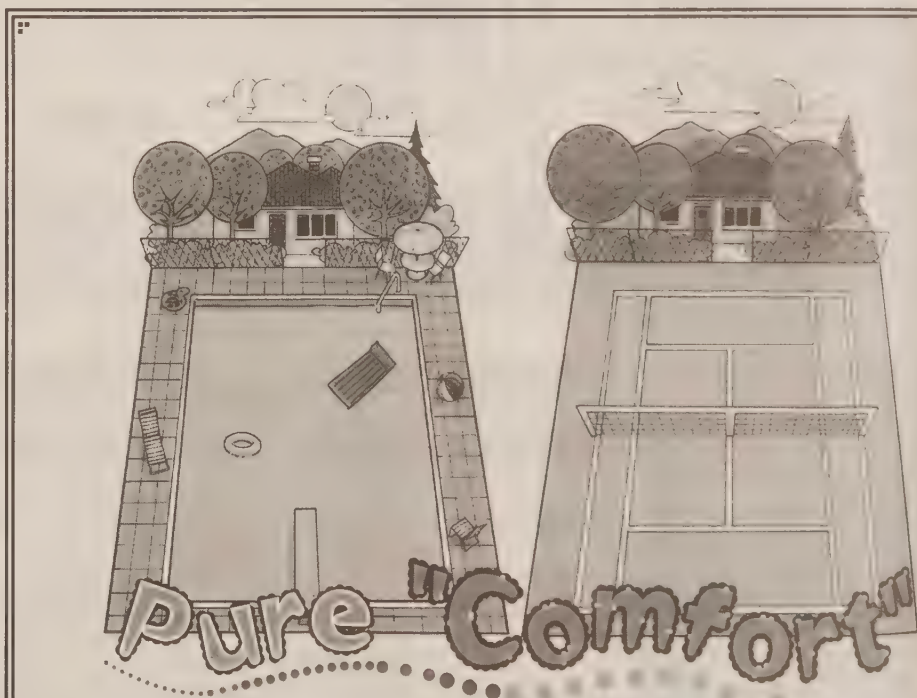
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You can lock-in your mortgage rate — for a price

No. 73 in a series

Mortgage Madness

By Karen Senzig



Karen Senzig

"The lock-in procedure is a test of mental dexterity and luck..."

The roller coaster is back in town.

Long term mortgage interest rates have been bouncing up and down, mainly up, for the last several weeks. Many borrowers are asking to lock-in their interest rate even before they buy a property. But most lenders still require a property address before they will commit to a rate lock-in.

The lock-in procedure is a test of mental dexterity and luck. The borrowers ask themselves, "Have interest rates hit their bottom or have they found a new ceiling? Will it cost extra to lock in our rate? What happens if interest rates go down after we lock? What can we do to protect ourselves?"

Although a lock-in does not usually cost the borrower additional service fees, it affects the pricing of the interest rate — and timing is everything. The rule of thumb is that the longer the lock-in, the higher the cost. Most lenders have four levels of

pricing all dealing with time and status of the loan.

■ **The base price or shortest term lock-in** is offered to borrowers whose loan has already been received, underwritten and approved by the lender. Any conditions that the lender needed before drawing the loan documents (called prior to docs conditions) must be satisfied. The lender normally offers a lock-in period of 10 to 15 days to close the loan.

■ **The second level** is usually a 21-day lock-in. With this lock-in, the loan package must be delivered to the lender within two to three business days and must be a complete package that includes an appraisal, preliminary title report and purchase contract — unless of course it is a refinance. Depending on the lender, the extra time will add one-eighth to

one-quarter of a point (a point is one percent of the loan amount) to the base price.

■ **The third level** would be a 30 day lock-in. The loan package is given 10 days before it must be delivered to the lender. Again, depending on the lender, the 30 day lock-in will add one-eighth to three-eighths of a point to the base price.

■ **The fourth level** is a long term lock-in of 45 to 60 days. Each 15 days over the 30 day pricing will add an additional one-eighth to one-quarter of a point to the 30 day pricing.

The long term lock works well for those borrowers who are involved in a long purchase transaction and believe that interest rates will continue to climb or for those borrowers who would like to take advantage of a "roll down" option.

Consider the roll down option as a sort of insurance policy. The few lenders who offer this plan have the borrowers lock-in their rate at the 45- to 60-day pricing. If rates drop during the lock-in period, the borrower has a one time option to reduce the interest rate to rates currently offered by the lender. The new rate is usually based on the 21- to 30-day pricing.

Normally a lock-in is as locked in stone. Once the loan is locked there are no other choices other than canceling the loan with the lender who locked the loan and going to another lender.

The roll down option was a popular tool in the late 1980s and early 90's but was limited to conforming loan amounts (then about \$190,000, now \$240,000 for single family homes) and usually required an up-

front fee of a one-quarter point of \$350 whichever was less. If the loan was declined, the lender refunded all but \$125 to the borrower.

Today, those lenders offering the roll-down option do not require an up front fee but may limit the loan products that will apply, usually to fixed rate loans. It is always a good question to ask when considering a lock-in and entry into the world of Mortgage Madness.

Karen Senzig is co-owner of Montclair Mortgage with her husband, Scott. She can be reached at 339-8511, fax: 339-3814, e-mail at KSenzig@aol.com. Please contact her with any mortgage questions and/or topics for discussion.

Build a strong retaining wall for home's sake

By John D. Wagner
TODAY'S HOMEOWNER

Plan ahead to avoid drainage disasters

Although retaining walls are simple structures, a casual check around your neighborhood will reveal lots of existing walls that are bulging, cracked or leaning. That's because most residential retaining walls have poor drainage, and many aren't built to handle the hillside they're supposed to hold back.

Even small retaining walls have to contain enormous loads. A 4-foot-high, 15-foot-long wall could be holding back as much as 20 tons of saturated soil.

Double the wall height to 8 feet, and you would need a wall that's eight times stronger to do the same job. With forces like these in play, you should limit your retaining wall efforts to walls under 4 feet tall (3 feet for mortared stone).

If you need a taller wall, consider terracing the lot with two walls that are big, or call in a landscape architect or structural engineer for the design work (have the architect or engineer inspect the site thoroughly) and experienced builders for the installation.

If you have your retaining wall built, figure about \$15 per square foot for a timber wall, \$20 for

an interlocking-block system or poured concrete and \$25 for a natural-stone wall.

Preparing a troublesome site — one that includes clay soil or a natural spring, for example — can raise costs substantially. Add 10 percent or so if you hire a landscape architect or engineer. But shop around; some landscape firms do the design work for free if they do the installation.

Building it right

Poor drainage resulting in saturated soil and frost heaving is the main cause of failure. That's why all good retaining walls begin with landscape fabric, backfill and 4-inch perforated drainage.

■ **Digging details.** The depth you need to excavate depends on frost depth as well as the wall and soil type. Mortared or concrete walls in heavy-frost areas require footings dug below the frost line. Nonmortared walls should be built on a gravel-filled trench dug below frost line. If you live where it doesn't freeze and your soil drains well, you may be able to just scrape away topsoil to form a base for nonmortared walls.

Before adding gravel, lay down enough landscape fabric to contain

the new gravel. Form the fabric into a large C shape, with the open mouth of the C facing downhill. The fabric should wrap around and create a border between the gravel and topsoil to keep sediment from clogging the gravel and drainpipe.

■ **Backfilling basics.** Replace native soil with 3/4-minus gravel (no stones under 3/4 inches in diameter) or "bank-run" gravel (washed stones 1/4 to 6 inches in diameter). Shovel at least a 4-inch layer of gravel onto the landscape fabric. Grade this layer so it slopes 1 inch for every 4 feet, allowing water to drain away. Then lay in 4-inch perforated PVC drainpipe at the base of the wall and cover it with gravel.

Shovel in backfill as you build the wall, one tier at a time. Don't add all the backfill at the end; it won't compact thoroughly. Tamp down the gravel as you go with a heavy hand tamper. Behind the top tier of the wall add 6 inches of topsoil and

lightly compact it.

■ **Battering and tiebacks.** All retaining walls should lean into the hill 1 inch for every 12 inches of height. Timber walls 4 feet or higher should be tied to the hillside with "deadmen" anchors (6-foot-long, T-shaped tiebacks buried in the hillside) attached to the wall every 8 feet, extending 6 feet back to a 2-foot-wide T-bar.

Deadmen are not included in some interlocking-block systems if the design allows backfill to secure the blocks individually in place. Still others require geo-grid, weblike tiebacks that get buried in the backfill. Check the manufacturer's literature.

A final heads-up on masonry walls: Concrete blocks chip and crack easily. Carefully inspect the blocks upon delivery, and don't be shy about returning damaged blocks for credit.

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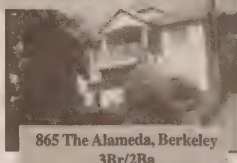
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2019 Buena Vista Ave. - \$300,000
1019 Camelia Dr. - \$318,000
2515 Central Ave. #203 - \$167,000
917 Central Ave. - \$170,000
28 Chatham Pointe Point - \$469,500
1261 Clarke Ln. - \$340,000
2513 Encinal Ave. - \$315,000
308 Maitland Dr. - \$241,500
3160 Phoenix Ln. - \$255,000
1406 Santa Clara Ave. - \$453,000
1201 Sherman St. - \$835,000
1137 Verdemar Dr. - \$232,000
2625 Washington St. - \$305,000
2800 Yosemite Ave. - \$375,000

ALBANY

967 Kains Ave. - \$350,000
738 Madison St. - \$412,000
982 Peralta Ave. - \$310,000

BERKELEY

2335 10th St. #C - \$170,000
1300 Addison St. #1 - \$239,000
2231 Ashby Ave. - \$260,000
1566 Campus Dr. - \$450,000
2461 Cedar St. - \$398,000
1 Eton Ct. - \$532,000
3034 Fulton St. - \$322,000
2910 Hillegass Ave. #2 - \$255,000
2106 Jefferson Ave. #8 - \$205,000
2700 Le Conte Ave. #8 - \$195,000
1414 Mlk Jr. Wy. - \$385,000
1515 North St. - \$473,000
1543 Posen Ave. - \$315,000
2319 Roosevelt Ave. - \$330,000
1381 Rose St. - \$425,000
824 San Diego Rd. - \$751,000
1217 Spruce St. - \$460,000
662 The Alameda - \$589,000
1720 Thousand Oaks Blvd. - \$405,000
2324 Valley St. - \$272,000
2329 Valley St. - \$320,000
1155 Virginia St. - \$251,500

EL CERRITO

6416 Barrett Ave. - \$395,000
7839 Eureka Ave. - \$253,000
410 Everett St. - \$255,000
618 Kearney St. - \$159,000
1629 Richmond St. - \$218,000

EMERYVILLE

5 Admiral Dr. #418F - \$199,000
4 Anchor Dr. #432F - \$95,000
7 Captain Dr. #308C - \$115,000

KENSINGTON

4 Marchant Gardens - \$380,000
68 Richardson Rd. - \$570,000

OAKLAND

831 32nd St. - \$85,000
4124 35th Ave. - \$252,000
4275 39th Ave. - \$491,000

On the average

ALAMEDA

TOTAL SALES: 17
LOWEST SALES: \$167,000
HIGHEST SALES: \$835,000
AVERAGE SALES: \$334,941

ALBANY

TOTAL SALES: 3
LOWEST SALES: \$310,000
HIGHEST SALES: \$751,000
AVERAGE SALES: \$357,333

BERKELEY

TOTAL SALES: 22
LOWEST SALES: \$170,000
HIGHEST SALES: \$751,000
AVERAGE SALES: \$363,750

EL CERRITO

TOTAL SALES: 5
LOWEST SALES: \$159,000

191 40th St. Wy. - \$265,000
2180 45th Ave. - \$155,000
3044 58th Ave. - \$177,000
630 66th St. - \$369,000
1241 73rd Ave. - \$114,500
2027 73rd Ave. - \$137,000
2921 73rd Ave. - \$93,500
1166 75th Ave. - \$100,000
1047 76th Ave. - \$127,000
1519 89th Ave. - \$116,000
941 91st Ave. - \$78,000
1520 92nd Ave. - \$155,000
303 Adams St. - \$100,000
1470 Adeline St. - \$152,000
3964 Barner Ave. - \$255,000
127 Bayo Vista Ave. #103 - \$85,000
565 Bellevue Ave. #2305 - \$167,000
5335 Broadway Tr. #301 - \$241,000
6870 Broadway Tr. - \$589,000
3747 Brown Ave. - \$179,000
3900 Clarke St. - \$149,000
4004 Coolidge Ave. - \$385,000
4108 Coolidge Ave. - \$286,000
24 Coolidge Tr. - \$326,500
2427 Damuth St. - \$107,000
4237 Detroit Ave. - \$350,000
529 East 17th St. - \$185,000
1606 East 21st St. - \$86,000
2220 East 21st St. - \$158,000
1331 East 32nd St. - \$143,500
1644 East 32nd St. - \$159,500
308 Elwood Ave. - \$326,500
3901 Everett Ave. - \$310,000
7085 Exeter Dr. - \$530,000
801 Franklin St. #1010 - \$145,000
4520 Harbord Dr. - \$475,000
1935 Harrington Ave. - \$115,000
7041 Hemlock St. - \$290,000
9415 Hillside St. - \$164,500
1830 Lakeshore Ave. #408 - \$179,000
3815 Laurel Ave. - \$187,500
320 Lee St. #704 - \$105,000
2146 Magellan Dr. - \$360,000
6720 Manor Crest - \$425,000
3750 McClelland St. - \$255,000
6053 Merriewood Dr. - \$299,000
3019 Monticello Ave. - \$235,000

HIGHEST SALES: \$395,000
AVERAGE SALES: \$256,000

EMERYVILLE

TOTAL SALES: 3
LOWEST SALES: \$95,000
HIGHEST SALES: \$199,000
AVERAGE SALES: \$136,333

KENSINGTON

TOTAL SALES: 2
LOWEST SALES: \$380,000
HIGHEST SALES: \$570,000
AVERAGE SALES: \$475,000

OAKLAND

TOTAL SALES: 64
LOWEST SALES: \$78,000
HIGHEST SALES: \$715,000
AVERAGE SALES: \$241,546

PIEDMONT

TOTAL SALES: 1
LOWEST SALES: \$868,000

6180 Moraga Ave. - \$387,000
2263 Park Blvd. - \$250,000
9509 Peach St. - \$85,000
2546 Pleasant St. - \$200,000
2472 Rawson St. - \$175,000
4616 Rising Hill Ct. - \$715,000
2684 Ritchie St. - \$96,000
4547 San Carlos Ave. - \$83,000
34 Sereno Cl. - \$390,000
12181 Skyline Blvd. - \$639,000
6050 Skyline Blvd. - \$325,000
1418 Sonoma Wy. - \$128,000
409 Taurus Ave. - \$596,000
2600 Wakefield Ave. - \$170,000

PIEDMONT

23 Highland Ave. - \$868,000

RICHMOND

703 22nd St. - \$88,000
765 34th St. - \$199,000
460 40th St. - \$135,000
526 4th St. - \$115,000
6073 Arlington Blvd. - \$204,000

1326 Carlson Blvd. - \$121,000
535 Casey Dr. - \$349,000
201 Commodore Dr. - \$201,000
4305 Cutting Blvd. - \$125,000
4815 Cutting Blvd. - \$105,000
806 Del Valle Cl. #50 - \$95,000
243 Duboce Ave. - \$85,000
2410 Glenlock St. - \$160,000
505 Golden Gate Ave. #1 - \$221,500
3949 Harmon Rd. - \$163,500
2437 Highgate Dr. - \$260,000
5141 Hilltop Dr. - \$189,000
675 Humboldt St. - \$112,000
685 Kern St. - \$253,000
1403 Letitia Rd. - \$114,000
2511 McBryde Ave. - \$138,000
4222 Nevin Ave. - \$162,000
1140 Parkridge Dr. - \$155,000
5801 Sierra Ave. - \$205,000
344 Silver Ave. - \$110,000
916 Solano Ct. - \$152,000
365 South 38th St. - \$154,000
3784 Stoneglen - \$89,000

203 Vista Heights - \$170,000

SAN LEANDRO

1323 147th Ave. - \$225,000
15640 Baypoint Ave. - \$395,500
15648 Baypoint Ave. - \$386,500
15652 Baypoint Ave. - \$352,500
15660 Baypoint Ave. - \$393,500
1487 Boxwood Ave. - \$215,000
261 Caliente Dr. #61 - \$138,500
900 Collier Dr. - \$215,000
2372 Driftwood Wy. - \$190,000
3483 Figueroa Dr. - \$220,000
282 Haas Ave. - \$209,500
433 Harlan St. - \$93,500
15440 Heron Dr. #72 - \$321,500
2258 Mariner Wy. - \$357,000
2277 Mariner Wy. - \$313,500
1851 Martin Blvd. - \$141,000
1174 Oakes Blvd. - \$325,000

TitleTech

14380 Orchid Dr. - \$110,000
398 Parrott St. - \$112,000
2268 Sanderting Ct. #104 - \$110,000

SAN LORENZO

1555 159th Ave. - \$210,000
1467 170th Ave. - \$210,000
260 Flint Ct. #3 - \$110,000
22175 Hathaway Ave. - \$110,000
710 Medford Ave. - \$110,000
16134 Penn Ave. - \$110,000
16049 Selborne Dr. - \$110,000
17263 Via Carmen - \$110,000
16048 Via Del Sol - \$110,000
15973 Via Media - \$110,000
1796 Via Natal - \$220,000
19061 Waverly Ave. - \$110,000

This list was compiled for publication in the Hills Newspapers. TitleTech of Oakland maintains weekly records from the recorder's office. Neither TitleTech nor the recorder's office guarantees accuracy or completeness of the information. Prices are estimated. An applicable county transfer tax is added. All questions regarding information and any requests for additional listings and services should be directed to Bud Gorham at 568-7233.



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Pleasant Hill

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Fri. - Mon. 11-5



Plan 4: 2,176 sq. ft.



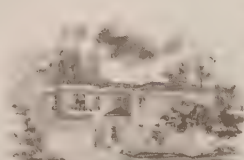
Plan 2: 1,644 sq. ft.

At Village Square in Pleasant Hill, an array of plans, exterior finishes and amenities await you. This enclave of 25 single homes features a private entry, landscaped areas plus your own back yard for your outdoor activities. Village Square also offers four spacious floor plans to choose from, each with a standard list of features you deserve in your new home.

Just minutes from shopping, freeways, and schools, Village Square offers the serenity and seclusion of a private community with the convenience of a great locale.

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Choices, Choices...

Village Square
Pleasant Hill

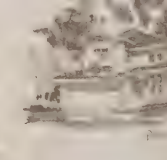
Plan 3: 2,298 sq. ft.



From the
mid \$300,000s.
Call 925.952.4595
for more details
or visit us
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Plan 4: 2,176 sq. ft.



Plan 2: 1,644 sq. ft.

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Heritage REAL ESTATE Better Homes and Gardens

Events

FROM PAGE C5

Discover Oakland's changing skyline, landmarks, churches and high-rises on one of the free guided walking tours sponsored by the city's Community and Economic Development Agency. Call 510-238-3234.

Sick plant clinic. Join University of California pathologist Dr. Robert Raabe from 9 a.m. to noon the first Saturday of every month for a free Sick Plant Clinic at the UC Botanical Gardens, 200 Centennial Dr. in Berkeley. Drop in with a picture of a sick or a dying plant and Dr. Raabe will diagnose the problem. Call 510-843-2755.

We accept event announcements on a space-available basis. Fax listings for this section to 510-339-0686, write 5707 Redwood Rd., Oakland 94619 or send e-mail to js-jones1@cttimes.com.

Preserve

FROM PAGE C5

This list includes official city landmarks, historic districts, and structures of merit. Historic structures are nominated for inclusion on the city's official landmark list by the owner, residents of that neighborhood, or a commission member.

Although an owner has the right to appear at a public hearing to ask that his structure not be placed on the landmarks list, a structure can be designated a historic landmark over the owner's objection.

But the structures and sites incorporated in this list are by no means meant to be static and isolated pieces of the past, but part of the living fabric of the city.

"The historic landmarks process is an ongoing activity, and not a static one," explains Leslie Emmington, one of the original landmarks commissioners who still serves on it.

"We don't want to rank buildings on a finalized list, the way some cities do. We also designate 'structures of merit,' that enhance the official landmarks by placing them in their historic context, and help create a cultural fabric."

Emmington explains that cities merely try to designate and preserve isolated structures as landmarks have had little success with such a narrow approach.

That's why Americans like to go to Europe. There, they can feel that they're surrounded by a whole environment of historic character and beauty, and not just looking at isolated landmarks. That's also our goal in Berkeley."

But what are the effects of placing a structure on the city's official landmarks list? Does this mean that the owner is then forever prohibited from altering the appearance or use of that structure in any way?

Not at all, explains Emmington. It just means is that the Landmarks Commission has the right to review the owner's proposed alterations to a landmark for the public good, so that the historic integrity of the structure is preserved."

Contrary to what many property owners believe, a number of official landmarks have been approved by the Landmarks Commission for alterations in recent years.

There are two such prominent structures in downtown Berkeley. One is the Frances K. Shattuck Building, on Shattuck Avenue at Addison Street, and the other is the Howard Automobile Showroom at Durant and Fulton streets.

The Shattuck Building was built in 1901, and designed by Stone and Smith. It's original three story facade has remained largely unaltered until this year.

Now, a fourth floor addition, with a turret at the corner, is under construction. When the work is done, the building will have a denser, multi-purpose use, and will be returned to its former prominence and high profile as a major downtown commercial landmark.

The Howard Showroom is an Art Deco gem, designed in 1930 by the prolific and highly respected East Bay architect Frederick Reimers. The landmarks Commission recently gave its permission for it to be adapted into a hardware store, and to add a second story with a ballroom and an apartment for the owner.

Clearly, Berkeley's preservation ordinance does not force owners of designated landmarks to keep their buildings in an unaltered state, or prevent major additions or adaptations to these structures.

Next week: The features and effects of historic preservation ordinances in Oakland and Alameda.

Ann A. Wilson is a Realtor and architectural historian who works for Prudential California Realty's Realty office. He can be reached at 510-273-9383. Visit www.topbroker.com/wilson.

Roundup

FROM PAGE C4

Point Richmond looking for ducks, noticed the city's potential for shipping and rail.

Farm tools, a vintage kitchen, bedroom, parlor and old-time school are all on display. Nevin Avenue at Fourth Street. 1 to 4 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays. 510-235-7387.

Point Richmond. The city's oldest neighborhood retains many 19th and early 20th century commercial and residential buildings, and a real flavor of the past.

The Point Richmond Museum, in the center of town, has been restored to its original 1903 appearance. The Point Richmond History Association meets five times a year and publishes a newsletter, This Point in Time. The museum is open 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursdays and Saturdays. 139 1/2 Washington Ave. Call Betty Dornan at 510-232-4317.

The Red Oak Victory. This World War II Victory ship, built in Kaiser's Shipyard One in Richmond in 1944, is moored along the waterfront and

under restoration. It is one of the last of 747 mostly Liberty and Victory ships built at the Kaiser shipyards during World War II. The federal Maritime Administration donated it to the Richmond Museum of History in 1996.

Rodeo

Today, the Rodeo Marina is a quiet and muddy harbor. But through the middle of the century it was a bustling center for sport fishing, one of the busiest in the Bay Area.

It remains a pleasant place to visit, however. Lone Tree Point, an East Bay Park District regional shoreline, offers a particularly scenic setting.

San Pablo

The San Pablo Historical Society, which runs the Alvarado Adobe and the Blume House Museum, meets monthly, and offer a slide show, "History of San Pablo," for school groups and clubs. Call Anna Gaurmar, 510-234-7518 or 510-215-3205.

This roundup originally appeared in the Focus section of the West County Times. We are reprinting it here as a service to Hills Newspapers readers.

PRICE HOME TO MOVE

Perhaps the most challenging aspect of selling a home is listing it at the correct price. It's one of several areas where the assistance of a skilled real estate agent can more than pay for itself.

Too high can be as bad as too low

If the listing price is too high, you'll miss out on a percentage of buyers looking in the price range where your home should be.

This is the flaw in thinking that you'll always have the opportunity to accept a lower offer. Chances are the offers won't even come in, because the buyers who would be most interested in your home have been scared off by the price and aren't even taking the time to look. By the time the price is corrected, you've already lost exposure to a

large group of potential buyers.

The listing price becomes even trickier to set when prices are quickly rising or falling. It's critical to be aware of where and how fast the market is moving — both when setting the price and when negotiating an offer.

Again, an experienced, well-trained agent is always in touch with market trends — often even to a greater extent than appraisers, who typically focus on what a property is worth if sold as-is.

Agent education, experience critical

When working with a real estate agent, it's critical that you have full confidence in that agent's experience and education. A skilled, knowledgeable agent should be able to explain to you exactly why your home needs to be priced at a certain level — compared to recent listings and sales of homes similar to yours.

Experienced agents also know exactly what the current pool of buyers are looking for in relation to particular styles and price ranges of properties. A skilled agent can recommend changes that will enhance the salability of your home, thus increasing the price — and/or decreasing the length of time before a sale.

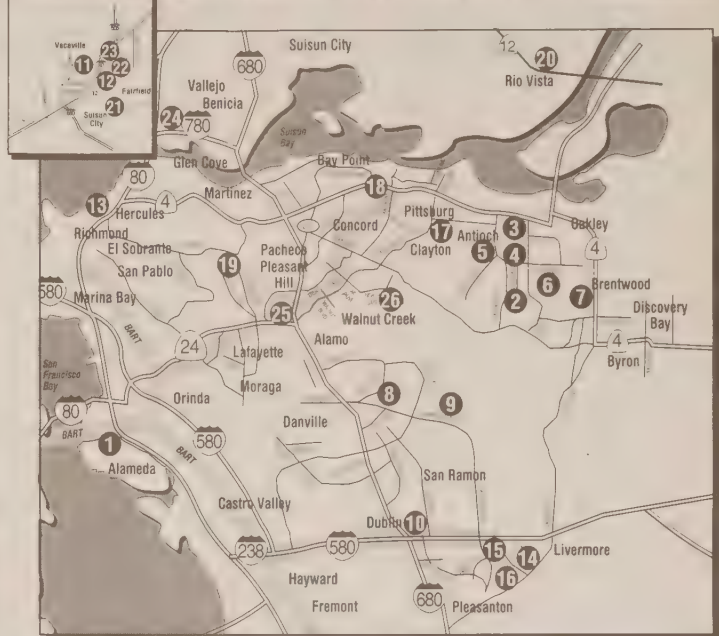
Little touches can generate big returns

Some of these changes may be cosmetic, involving literally no expense on your part. It might be as simple as moving out some of your furniture and adjusting window coverings to best display desirable qualities of the home. Other changes might demand an investment, but the cost will likely more than pay for itself in the final sales price or timeliness of the sale.

—RE/MAX

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A LITTLE THING CAN GO A LONG WAY TO NEW HOMES



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1 The Gardens

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ANTIOCH

2 Castellana at Black Diamond Knolls

From the \$230,000's. New Release! Richard's distinctive tower accented architecture to a most sea. Lrg 4 & 5 BR, 2200-2600 sq ft. w/3 car gar, country kit, 7000-sq-ft lots. Lone Tree to Molokai Dr. Open 11-5 925-706-9535 or www.richlandmo.com

DAYBREAK

From low \$200,000's. Six plans offer 1551-2400 sq ft., 3-5 BR. Many on cul-de-sacs lots flexible designs inc. bonus spaces. Loc. near Deer Vly. High shopping. Open daily 925-756-7782

LONE TREE ESTATES-MASTERS COLLECTION

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TOURVILLE

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BRENTWOOD

6 Diablo Vista

From the \$190,000's. PHASE FOUR Now Selling! Affordable luxury living. Exciting single-family neighborhood redesigns to 2700 sq ft. 5BR, 3BA, central commute loc. at Fairview & San Jose. www.richmondamerican.com. Richmond American Homes. 925-516-7193

BRENTWOOD

From \$164,900. Golf, tennis, swim, walking trails, active adult living for 55 & over. 500E to Vasco Rd. No. to Brentwood/Hwy 4 E to Lone Tree. rt. to Brentwood. Open M-F 9-5, Sat/Sun 10-5 888-786-7738

DANVILLE

6 Campbell Place

From high \$700,000's. Grand Opening! Ltd. edition of only 20 craftsman-style great homes on lrg. view lots w/valley floorplans 680 to Sycamore Vly. Rd. E. rt. onto Camino Tassajara. Left on Glasgow Dr. rt. on Glasgow Cir. rt. on Campbell Pl. By Pacific Union Homes. 925-743-0238

SHADOW CREEK MANOR

From low \$600,000's. 48 luxury homes, 4-5 BR. Selling Final Phase! Tax 680 to Crow Canyon Rd. east, right on Camino Tassajara, follow signs. Open Mon 1-5, Wed-Sun 10-5 925-736-7369

DUBLIN

10 Meridian at Emerald Park

From high \$300,000's. NEW RELEASE! Models open. Luxury living in master-planned community with 3 home designs up to 2200 sq ft., 5 BR & 3 baths. Lrg. lot, super family room, retreat options. Near I-580 & Dublin BART. Hacienda and rt. off 580. Open daily 10-6, Mon 2-6. Richmond American Homes. 925-828-8029

FAIRFIELD

11 First Green at Rancho Solano CC

From the \$300,000's. Surrounded by 3 fairways & views of rolling hills. Loc. in established neighborhood, whispering nearby. 4-5 BR, 2852-3429 sq ft., 2-3 car gar. Easy commuting w/I-80. Centex Homes. 707-426-5211

RIDGEVIEW AT PARADISE VALLEY

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HERCULES

15 Belleterre

From \$306,880. Now Open! 4BR, 3BA, 2 & 3 car gar. Opt. 5th BR, den or super family rm. Steel-built, structured cabling, Bay views, country setting, easy commutes. 180 to San Pablo Rd. to Hercules Ave. to Titan Way. Open 10-5, Tues. 12-5 510-741-9165 or www.schulerca.com

LIVERMORE

14 Ravenswood

From mid \$400,000's. Furnished Models Now Open! 26 country estates, 1/4 ac. sites, 4BR, up to 3 BA, 3 car gar, 1&2 story 2554-3246 sq ft. 580 E to Vasco Rd. rt. to Emily Open 11-5, closed Thurs. 925-449-5458 www.creativehomes.com/ravenswood

LIVERMORE

15 Ridgecrest

From mid \$300,000's. Grand Opening! 36 luxurious homes, 4 designs, to 2273 sq ft. 4 BR, 2-5 BA, lots to 13,000 sq ft. Desirable loc. near 580 BART/ACE train. www.richmondamerican.com. Richmond American Homes. 580 to N. Livermore. left on Portola. Open 10-6, Mon 2-6 925-371-6648

VINTAGE COLLECTION

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PITTSBURG

17 Highlands Ranch

From low \$200,000's. Beautifully designed, 1134-3549 sq ft. 3-5BR. 2&3 car gar, opts incl dens lots, media cabling system. Near shopping schools & freeway access. Loc. off Buchanan Rd. bet. Loveland & Somersville. 1-888-41-HOMES. Seeno homes. www.seenohomes.com

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PLEASANT HILL

19 Grayson Woods

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RIO VISTA

20 Sunnyside at Rio Vista

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SUISUN CITY

21 Heartstone

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VACAVILLE

22 Brighton/Cambridge at Westgate

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DIAMOND GROVE

From mid \$160,000's. Gated active adult comm. Contemporary 1 story homes. Beautiful rec. ctr. w/game rms, swimming & more! Open 11-5 I-80 to Orange Dr. follow to Orange Tree Cir. 707-447-5800 or 707-447-5900

VALLEJO

23 Crystal Pointe

From the \$170,000's. NOW SELLING! Hillside homes in established neighborhood w/valleys of Carqueste Strait. 3 Plans to 1613 sq ft. 3 BR, 2 1/2 BA. Great commute loc. near I-80. www.richmondamerican.com. Richmond American Homes. 707-643-5466

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Counter a stale, worn kitchen with fresh renovation ideas

From the Ground Up

By Paul Winans



Paul Winans

"It is always a good idea to be clear with the fabricator about where the seams should go..."

In this series so far, we have considered many of the things that are part of a kitchen remodel: your goals, your budget and your materials. Let's continue the discussion of material choices by looking at your workspace friend, the humble kitchen counter.

Counters

The working surfaces of the kitchen probably get more use and abuse than any other material. Think about it. Cutting without a cutting board. Does it happen in your house? It happens in mine. The result can be little nicks or the actual destruction of the counter top.

Does every spill or drop of water wipe up immediately? Probably not. What happens to the counter in the meantime? Staining or discoloring, depending on the material it is made of.

Let's look at some of the most popular material choices for counter

tops, considering the pros and cons of each.

■ **Plastic laminate** counter tops are what many of us grew up with. A very thin laminated material with a layer of color on the finished face, plastic laminate depends on the base to which it is attached for much of its strength.

Popularly known as Formica (actually a manufacturer, along with Wilson Art and Nevamar, among others) this counter top material is relatively inexpensive. Plastic laminate can be machined with carpentry tools. Because of this attribute plastic laminate counter tops can be fabricated by more people than any other type of top. Additionally it can be used as the face of cabinetry.

Available in sheets up to 5'x12', plastic laminate can be used to produce counters with relatively few seams. It is always a good idea to be clear with the fabricator about where seams will be located before the counter is produced.

Hot pots placed directly on this type of counter will scorch or burn the surface. Always use a hot plate to protect the counter. Using a cutting board when using a knife will protect the counter from nicks. Staining can occur if caustic liquids are left on the surface for several hours,

particularly if the counter is several years old.

Repairing damage to a plastic laminate counter top involves cutting out the damaged portion and inserting a patch. Such a repair never really looks good and it introduces more seam into the counter surface.

When fabricated and cared for correctly plastic laminate counter tops last a long time. They offer the best value in counter top materials.

■ **Butcher block** counters made of wood have been common in kitchens throughout history. Wood counters are losing popularity, but when they're used it's a hardwood you're likely to see. Hardwood is less porous than softwood and it is (naturally) harder, both good qualities for a counter top.

Butcher block is the common name for a type of wood counter top. Butcher block is made of smaller pieces of material glued together to form a larger surface. Because it is

made up of many small pieces of wood butcher block is less likely to warp or split than a similarly sized single piece of wood.

Sometimes the wood is oriented to have the end grain as the counter surface. This is good because the end grain is more dense and less prone to damage than the flat grain.

It is best not to finish a wood counter with a hard finish unless you plan on regarding it as a piece of fine furniture and will be doing no food preparation of any kind on it. Usually wood counters are oiled with linseed oil, a finish that can be renewed periodically.

Cutting for food preparation on a wood counter top seems like a natural. It is, but it does distress the countertop over time. The good thing is the surface can be sanded down and be smooth once again. The bad thing is this is difficult to do with the counter top in its installed position. Depending on how the counter was

installed it might not be possible to take it out and reinstall it.

Stains happen. Do not let food items sit on the counter for long. If the wood gets stained there is very little that can be done except to accept the new colors!

A popular way wood counter is used in a kitchen is as an accent piece, not as the material all of the counters are made from. A 3' or 4' section of wood counter allows enough room for food prep. If the kitchen has an island consider using a wood top here.

Next time, we will consider some of the other popular material choices for counters: tile, solid surface materials and stone.

Paul Winans, CR, is co-owner of Winans Construction, Inc., an Oakland-based general contracting firm founded in 1978. Paul can be reached at 510-653-7288 or E-mail info@winconinc.com.

Take charge of your home sale with common sense marketing strategy

As a homeowner, you can play an important part in the timely sale of your property. When you take the following steps, you'll help your agent sell your home faster, and at the best possible price.

1. **Make the most of that first impression.**

A well-manicured lawn, neatly trimmed shrubs and a clutter-free porch welcome prospects. So does a freshly painted — or at least freshly scrubbed — front door. The fewer obstacles between prospects and the true appeal of your home, the better.

2. **Invest a few hours for future dividends.**

Here's your chance to clean up in real estate. Clean up in the living room, the bathroom, the kitchen. If your woodwork is scuffed or the paint is fading, consider some minor redecoration. Fresh wallpaper adds charm and value to your property. Prospects would rather see how great your home really looks than hear how great it could look.

3. **Check faucets and bulbs.**

Dripping water rattles the nerves, discolors sinks and suggests faulty or worn-out plumbing. Burned out bulbs leave prospects in the dark. Don't let little problems detract from what's right with your home.

4. **Don't shut out a sale.**

If cabinets or closet doors stick in your home, you can be sure they will also stick in a prospect's mind. Don't try to explain away sticky situations when you can easily plane them away. A little effort on your part can smooth the way toward a closing.

5. **Think safety.**

Homeowners learn to live with all kinds of self-set booby traps: roller skates on the stairs, festooned extension cords, slippery throw rugs and low hanging overhead lights. Make your residence as non-perilous as possible for uninitiated visitors.

6. **Make room for space.**

Remember, potential buyers are looking for more than just comfortable living space. They're looking for storage space, too. Make sure your attic and basement are clean and free of unnecessary items.

7. **Consider your closets.**

The better organized a closet, the larger it appears. Now's the time to box up those unwanted clothes and donate them to charity.

8. **Make your bathrooms sparkle.**

Bathrooms sell homes, so let them shine. Check and repair damaged or unsightly caulking in the tubs and showers. For added allure, display your best towels, mats and shower curtains.

9. **Create dream bedrooms**

Wake up prospects to the cozy comforts of your bedrooms. For a spacious look, get rid of excess furniture. Colorful bedspreads and fresh curtains are a must.

10. **Open up in the daytime**

Let the sun shine in! Pull back your curtains and drapes so prospects can see how bright and cheery your home is.

11. **Lighten up at night.**

Turn on the excitement by turning on all your lights — both inside and outside — when showing your home in the evening. Lights add color and warmth, and make

prospects feel welcome.

12. **Avoid crowd scenes.**

Potential buyers often feel like intruders when they enter a home filled with people. Rather than give your house the attention it deserves, they're likely to hurry through. Keep the company present to a minimum.

13. **Watch your pets.**

Dogs and cats are great companions, but not when you're showing your home. Pets have a talent for getting underfoot. So do everybody a favor: Keep Fluffy and Spot outside.

or at least out of the way.

14. **Think volume.**

Rock-and-roll will never die. But it might kill a real estate transaction. When it's time to show your home, it's time to turn down the stereo and television.

15. **Relax.**

Be friendly, but don't try to force conversation. Prospects want to view your home with a minimum of distraction.

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Are you a low to moderate income, first-time homebuyer interested in purchasing a home in Emeryville?
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NEW LISTING



230 Duncan Way, Montclair

Montclair charmer. Hardwood floors, eat-in kitchen, level to a spacious garden, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, garage and great access to public transportation.

Offered at \$295,000

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REALTORS

Information deemed reliable but not guaranteed

NEW LISTING IN REDWOOD HEIGHTS Open Sunday • July 25 • 2-4:30



3558 Jordan Road, Oakland
\$269,500

Delightful, bright English Tudor with comfortable spacious floor plan. Two bedrooms and one bath on main level. Hardwood floors throughout. Wonderful kitchen with adjoining breakfast room. Large attic space. Detached garage to be sold "as is." Don't miss this opportunity. A truly special home.

Diane Earl McCan
(510) 339-6460 ext. 352

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A Better Mortgage 800-361-7260	7.375+\$360(7.55)	7+\$360(7.18)	7.75+\$360(7.83)	7.375+\$360(7.55)	100% financing-new purchase-48 hour approval. Make your best offer with loan approval. Open Saturday and Sunday 10am-5pm.
A Simple Mortgage 925-930-0149	7+2	6.75+2	7.5+1	6.875+2	Easy—simple. Never fill out a form. Courteous, professional. (Company owner 10 years). Will come to your home or business. No application fee.
Aapex Mortgage 800-344-2739	7.375+0+0 7.125+1+0 6.75+2.5+0	7+0+0 6.75+1+0 6.375+2.25+0	7.75+0+0 7.5+1+0 7.25+2+0	7.375+0+0 7+1+0 6.75+2+0	VA loan specialist. Jumbo loans. Commercial loans. Call for details.
Aston Financial Group 925-934-5323	7.375+0(7.49) 7.125+1.25(7.38) 6.875+2.5(7.05)	7.25+0(7.38) 7+1(7.19) 6.75+1.75(6.99)	7.625+0(7.78) 7.375+1.25(7.51) 7.125+2.25(7.34)	7.5+0(7.61) 7.375+1(7.57) 7.125+1.5(7.3)	Save thousands of dollars on the purchase of your home. Call for details!
California Home Loans 800-952-5888 CA DRE Lic#01096460	7+1.5(7.24) 7.125+1(7.34) 7.375+0(7.49)	6.5+2(7.01) 6.875+1(7.31) 7.125+0(7.32)	7.375+2(7.64) 7.625+1(7.79) 7.875+0(7.93)	7+2(7.42) 7.25+1(7.51) 7.625+0(7.72)	Powered by Loan City with over 12,000 loan options available. Slow credit OK with purchase/refinance. Apply by phone. 100% purchase. 10% down no income verify. Same day approvals.
Chase Manhattan Mortgage-Walnut Creek 1-888-276-8145	7.125+1.75(7.31) 7.25+1.25(7.39)	6.625+1.75(6.998) 6.75+1.25(7.08)	7.5+2(7.71) 7.625+1.5(7.77)	7+2(7.31) 7.125+1.5(7.39)	10/1 ARM: first 10 years fixed at 7+1 to \$1.1M. Single-close construction loans at 7.25%. First-time home buyer loans. Call for no down (\$0) payment loans to \$400,001.
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Discovery Mortgage Co. 800-303-6600	6.875+2.25 7.125+1 7.375+0	6.625+1.5 6.875+.625 7+0	7.25+1.75 7.5+.75 7.75+0	6.875+1.875 7.125+.875 7.375+0	VA—FHA—CHFA—PERS—CAL VET After 5pm and on weekends call 510-539-7245. Se habla Español, call 925-688-6128.
J&J Mortgage Corporation 925-254-1271	7.375+1(7.49)	7+1(7.18)	7.75+1(7.81)	7.25+1(7.34)	FHA/VA specialists. Se habla Español. Bankers since 1949. FHA 30 yr ARM 6+1+4.5. Lock 60 days-caps 1/5.
Portfolio Lending Group 800-866-1882	7.125+1.25(7.39) 7.375+0(7.51)	6.75+1.25(7.26) 7.125+0(7.34)	7.5+1(7.69) 7.75+0(7.83)	7.25+1(7.55) 7.5+0(7.63)	Conforming 5yr fixed 6.5+1. Jumbo 5yr fixed 6.625+1. Learn 5 ways to own your own home with no money down! Call Dave Tang (ext. 1) or email: hall2call@aol.com
Rounder Financial 800-867-9783	7.125+1(7.23)	6.625+1(6.79)	7.375+1(7.4)	7.125+1(7.17)	Open 7 days a week. Se habla Español. Equity 2xos to 125%. Debt consolidation.
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Information is current as of July 20, 1999. For information on specific mortgage programs, call the lender. Rates, points and programs are subject to change and cannot be guaranteed. Points include discount and origination fees. Most quotes are for 30-day lock-ins, unless otherwise stated. Rates quoted are based on loan amounts of \$125,000. Maximum conventional loan amount \$240,000; jumbo loans are in excess of \$240,000. Annual Percentage Rate (APR)—an interest rate reflecting the cost of a mortgage as a yearly rate. This rate is likely to be higher than the stated note rate or advertised rate on the mortgage, because it takes into account points and other credit costs. The APR allows homebuyers to compare different types of mortgages based on the annual cost for each loan. ARM—adjustable rate mortgage. LTV—loan to value. MI—mortgage insurance. NA—not available. Lenders, to be listed in this past column, call 1-800-CNS-8525. To calculate your exact mortgage payments using our electronic payment calculator and for extensive mortgage, real estate, and consumer financial information, including tips and definitions of terms, please visit our website at www.cnsweb.com. Copyright 1999 Consumer News Systems



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HILLS NEWSPAPERS

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www.cnsweb.com

California Association of Realtors taps Lois Harris for director post

Congratulations to Lois Harris of Prudential California Realty's Grand-Lake office. Lois has been appointed a California Association of Realtors Director for 1999-2000.

C.A.R. is the professional association for 92,000 Realtors statewide. Realtors subscribe to a strict code of ethics and have access to numerous services and programs.

The goal of C.A.R. is to provide an environment that is beneficial to

Realtors and their clients. This is accomplished by identifying and monitoring issues and emerging trends that affect property ownership, and recommending positions for the real



Harris

estate industry.

In other words, C.A.R. is "minding the store" so that the Realtor's energies can be focused on listing and selling, and serving their clients.

Lois also serves as a Director for the Oakland Association of Realtors, and can be reached at 510-834-2010. Congrats, Lois!

FEATURED HOME OF THE WEEK

El Cerrito Classic Tudor an inspiration

This classic 1930's home is a rare find indeed. Nestled in the lower El Cerrito hills, amid historic homes of the period, this Tudor style is a model of fine craftsmanship. With only three owners in its lifetime, very little has been done to disturb the charm and character of this stunning home.

The home offers high ceilings, a dining area large enough to seat 12 comfortably and even a wine cellar! It all comes together to describe an era of elegant living and large scale entertaining.

The 2,800 square ft. interior includes four-plus bedrooms, three baths with den or guest room on the lower level (one of the baths here).

To add to the potential living area is a full undeveloped attic which runs the entire length of the house. An automatic garage door opener has



SIMMONS & CO

A FULL undeveloped attic runs the length of this house — a creative touch could make the most of it. Call 510-235-1176 for information.

been added to the full sized two car garage and 220 wiring has been installed for appliance updates.

Only 10 minutes away from Mira Vista Country Club, centrally located for quick access to freeways or shopping, this neighborhood still maintains seclusion and privacy. The 12,000 sq. ft. property is actually two

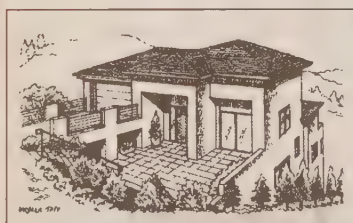
lots in one with extensive grounds including lush landscaping and a garden room. This home is true to the high style and comfort of the 1930s period homes of the East Bay.

This home is listed for sale by Simmons & Co. Realtors, 510-235-1176.

WELLS & BENNETT REALTORS

531-7000

OPEN SUNDAY 2:00 - 4:30 P.M.



484 GRAVATT DRIVE.....\$859,000
Post-modern Elegance! New Panoramic Bay view home. Strong space planning, designer interiors with hardwood, handcrafted steel, fine stones, & art concrete. Peter Nicolopoulos 510-339-9780

1079 EUCLID (BERKELEY).....\$595,000
New listing- Beautiful new construction. 3BD/2.5BA, formal dining room, yard, decks, hardwood floor and more!
Beth DeAlley 531-7006 x234



4433 BROOKDALE AVE.....\$179,000
Light & airy Maxwell Park 2BD, plus room for office or den, large sunny remodeled kitchen. Lovely terraced yard with brick patio. Kate Phillips 436-4100

816 E. 28TH AVE.....\$169,000
Two plus bedroom, one plus bath home, development potential on 10,000 sq. ft. lot, many possibilities, "as is" sale.
Stan Hammond 839-5846

BY APPOINTMENT



HIDEAWAY IN MONTCLAIR.....\$325,000
Seclusion with a lush wooded view. Three bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms with great detail. Wonderful "room with a view" that can be used for art, reading, music or a 4th bedroom. Douglas Fir floors, tile hearths at both fireplaces, tile risers accenting stairs. Newer roof, redwood siding, 2 car garage.
Carol Robbiano x 292

MARVELOUS MONTCLAIR LOT.....\$199,000
Level in downslope. 10,000+ sq. ft. North Bay and canyon views. Soil reports available. Carol Robbiano x 292

CROCKER HIGHLAND LOTS!...\$150,000 & \$155,000
Two buildable lots in great neighborhood, \$150,000 and \$155,000.
Stan Hammond x 346

MONTCLAIR/ OAKLAND HILLS LOT.....\$64,500
Includes approved design review plans. Ready for completion. Westerly exposure. Financing available. Utilities at front of lot.
Frank Hennefer 654-6461

LOTS

CLAREMONT HILLS.....\$649,000
Newer construction in Claremont Hills. 4 bedroom, 3.5 bath including separate home office. So. Bay view, yard & deck.
Wendy Callaghan ext. 237

5-PLEX NEAR PIEDMONT AVE.....\$385,000
3 Studios, 2-1BD. Three story Victorian era building. Upgraded in 1993. Rents below market. SF bay view. Top locale.
Frank Hennefer 654-6461

TWO BAY VIEW LOTS.....\$110,000
Side by side Upslope lots with Bay view sold as a package. Ample space for two homes. Call for more information.
Carol Robbiano x 292

OAKLAND HILLS BAY VIEW LOT.....\$95,000
Nearly 1 acre w/ utilities offsite. Includes completed plans & engineering. No permit issued. Great setting on cul-de-sac. Financing available. Frank Hennefer 654-6461

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OAKLAND / PIEDMONT

Piedmont Estate.....\$2,750,000
Secluded Mediterranean home w/ indoor pool & lap pool. Lovely gardens, views, 6BD/6BA. Au pair.
Martine F. Erickson
VM 510-6544-5482, 510-428-0900

***Custom New Med.....\$1,495,000**
Open Sunday! 10055 Broadway Terrace. 5BD/4.5BA. Artful use of stone, wood and iron. Views!
Mary Ruth Armstrong
510-869-4206

*** Beautiful New Const.....\$869,000**
3+BD/3+BA. Open Sunday!
6620 Estates Dr. Private setting. Close to Village.
Kurt Meyer 510-268-8123

***Open Sunday!.....\$699,000**
6350 Contra Costa Road. Contemp. Home 4BD/4BA boasts 32200 sq. ft. of great family living.
Mary Ruth Armstrong
510-869-4206

Beautiful Piedmont 1918 Home.....\$479,000
3BD/1 BA Craftsman w/ woodwork, built-ins. Moldings. Wonderful yard for children/entertaining.
Michele Alden 510-898-9404
510-428-0900

Upper Rockridge.....\$479,000
Lovely, light-filled Traditional in popular Rockridge. Huge yard. Must see!
Cherie Hunt 510-433-9737

Piedmont Level-in.....\$399,000
2BD/2BA all one floor, hdwd floors, new lino, low garden upkeep, view, quaint patio.
Ted Normart 510-428-0900

Trestle Glen Charmer! \$379,500
3BD/2BA on a cul-de-sac. Formal LR, DR, private yard, finished attic, lg. bsmt, attached garage.
Allen Hibbard 510-869-5814,
510-849-3711

8 Minutes to S.F.!.....\$364,000
Enjoy City Life without hassle or cost! Immaculate 3BD/2BA + 2 "in-law" units. Walk to shops, clubs.
Logene Butler 510-524-2526

Family Home in Crocker.....\$340,000
New Listing! 3BD/1BA up-1BD/1BA down w/ big fam rm. Newer roof, hdwd flrs. Great home and price.
Craig Shane 510-869-4211

Sequoyah Retreat.....\$325,000
3BD/2BA custom family home, hdwd flr, lg kit w/ break rm., FDR, fam rm., secluded & serene w/ golf view.
Rhonda Drakeford 510-729-2088,
510-273-9247

Montclair Best Buy.....\$318,000
2+BD/2+BA Gleaming hdwd floors, fresh interior paint, vaulted ceiling.
Bill Boze 510-869-4616

House with the Red Door.....\$309,000
A Montclair garden house w/ 3BD/1BA, warm sun, bright flowers, a big oak tree and a far away view.
Camille Rogers 510-845-0200

Charming Glenview Gem...\$295,000
2BD/1BA up, non-conforming studio down. Shows beautifully.
Jim Resor 510-658-3476

***OPEN HOUSE...\$250,000**
2BD w/ fireplace, dishwasher, laundry room, backyard, & basement w/ half bath & 2 rms. 624 Aileen St.
Chaunette Hamilton 510-869-2516

***Temescal - Open Sunday.....\$249,000**
New Listing! 3BD/2BA. Updated Queen Anne Victorian. Move-in condition! 467-38th St.
David Otero 510-869-4239

Oh, You Beautiful Doll.....\$217,500
Lg. 4BD, geart yard, pond, hdwd flr, Queen Anne style. Oakland/ Berkeley/ Emeryville border.
Cindy Boze 510-845-0211

New Listing!.....\$175,000
2BD/2BA condo w/ vaulted ceilings, bright & light, overlooking Leona Res. Move in condition!
Vince Moran 510-835-5340

North Oakland 600 Aileen.....\$155,000
Good starter home in the area. 2BD, living w/ fireplace, formal dining room and large kitchen. Call agent for appt. to show.
Edwina Taylor 510-845-0200

Two Bedroom Condo w/ Fireplace.....\$89,000
Best price on any 2BD between Piedmont Avenue & the Lake! Balcony, fireplace, plenty of room.
Tom Modic 510-849-3711,
510-273-9519

Dream House
View www.realtvision a dream with unique features take a tour on the web.
Candice 510-528-9284,
510-845-0200

EMERYVILLE



Fabulous Live/Work \$321,000
Emeryville's finest location. 2+ story, 1500 sq. ft., 2 BD, exposed brick walls, skylight, etc!
Miriam Wilson
510-898-9411, 510-845-0211

A Rare Gem!...\$2300/mo.
Emeryville Condo. 2BD/2BA. Enchanting views from 2 balconies! Available now. Move-in condition!
Phina Christentry 510-526-5143

BERKELEY/ALBANY

Traditional Near U.C.....\$390,000
5BD/2BA 2-story, large kitchen, small yard, 1-car garage, walking distance to U.C. Berkeley.
Fatima Ali 510-845-0211

Elmwood for Less.....\$389,000
Live in Elmwood for a song! Cozy 3BD house w/ designer touches.
Candice Economides 510-273-9024,
510-845-0200

Charming Duplex.....\$339,000
Attractive duplex. Each unit has 2BD/2BA + office & garage. New kitchen, new deck, beautiful wood floor.
Anna Lei 510-273-9127,
510-527-9800

Special MacGregor!..\$335,000
3BD/1BA home, absolutely adorable! Sparkling & updated, lg. private yd., near Solano shops & BART.
Rayne Palmer 510-526-5143

***Lovely Westbrae Traditional!.....\$200,000**
Open Sun 2-4, 1204 N. Main St. 2BD/1.5BA, office area, roomy garden, eat-in kitchen! Spacious!
Karen Bevis 510-869-5100

Immaculate!.....\$200,000
2BD, updated condo w/ private look. Security parking. Walk to & Elmwood shops!
Denise Milburn 510-869-5100

South Campus Condo.....\$175,000
Bright, light & fresh paint. 2BD, 2 parking spaces! Balcony w/ views. Nearby shuttle to BART.
Ariene Baxter 510-869-5100

New Listing in Berkeley!.....\$175,000
Lovely 3BD/1BA garden level some hdwd flrs, large lot, near 4th St., easy S.F. access.
Cynthia Johnson 510-869-5100

WEST COUNTY

Gorgeous Home.....\$300,000
Large 4BR, 2BA offers beautiful views. New roof, 2 car garage, updated kitchen. Clear terms.
Anna Lei 510-273-9127,
510-527-9800

***Open Sunday.....\$225,000**
1246 Richmond, El Cerrito 1BA Charming updated garden cottage.
Jim Resor 510-658-3476



Adorable! Move-in \$185,000
Spacious 3BR, 2BA, hdwd floors, French doors to sunny den, lovely yard, mstr. Ste. 2 car garage, updated charm.
Denise Milburn
510-849-3711, 510-869-5100

Diamond in the Rough!.....\$99,000
Richmond fixer, 2BR, 1BA, great location, close to transportation! Great opportunity!
Ailky Vasdekis 510-869-5100

RESIDENTIAL INVESTMENT

Investment & Quality Living...\$1,090,000
Two big houses with good great area. (6+BR & 3+BR) both with attics, lots of space, yard, unique opportunity.
Ana + Pascal Forest 510-869-5100

***New Listing!.....\$330,000**
Open Sunday 2-4, 2015-10 McGee. Charming 1923 victorian plex! Lovely garden and more!
Carol Jakabson 510-869-5100

LOTS FOR SALE

Claremont Hills.....\$200,000
Luxury lot with view - 1 acre!
Nancy Platford 510-869-5100

Claremont Hills.....\$110,000
Bay view lot with designer's plan.
Nancy Platford 510-869-5100

Berkeley/Oakland.....\$120,000
Claremont Hills location in prime lion \$ homes. 2 downsize lots - Sold separately or together.
Helene Barkin 510-869-5100

Panoramic Bay Views.....\$100,000
Panoramic bay view lot, best of both worlds! Cal Stadium almost 1500 ft. of land, no utilities.
Fatima Ali 510-845-0211

To place an ad in Real Estate & Home call 510-339-4046

The Auto Section

The Berkeley Voice, The Journal, Alameda Journal

July 22, 1999

Section D

Auto Doctor Tell Junior Damato where it hurts [D3]

Alternative ideas Survey says no automaker is a 'green' leader [D3]

Motor Mart Buy it, sell it, trade it here [D5]

Saturn on the rise with 2000 LS model

Can it knock Japan's Honda, Toyota for loop?

By Arnold Wechter
NORTH AMERICAN AUTO WRITERS SYNDICATE

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Toyota's Camry and the Honda Accord have pretty much dominated the American car market for the past two years — but that could change.

A new challenger has appeared on the scene — and it would be unwise for the two Japanese companies to take Saturn lightly. Saturn introduced its new mid-size sedans and station wagons under the hot Phoenix skies.

Known as the "I" series, which stands for large, the cars appear to be competent, strong competitors in the most highly-contested market segment.

Saturn believes with the introduction of the all-new mid-size LS sedan and LW wagon that it significantly expands its product line and takes an important step into its evolution into a larger, stronger company.

The new models go on sale in the summer as 2000-year models. It places Saturn into the largest segment of the U.S. market where mid-size cars account



THE SATURN LS SEDAN will hit the showroom this summer as a 2000-year model. Saturn execs say they have a contender to take on Honda and Toyota in a hot market segment.

See SATURN, Page D7

Drive, She Said

By Denise McLuggage



Denise McLuggage

"The instrument panel is clearly 'mission control,' and it can be an incredible source of annoyance..."

Dashboard deserves our respect

The dashboard has come a long way since it was a mere upward curve at the leading edge of a motorcar. It was then intended to keep mud from splashing the duster of the driver at the tiller.

Oddly, "the dash" has retained its name beyond its functionality, at least with the lay public. The industry refers to it as the IP, short for instrument panel, or, increasingly, referred to as the cockpit. I think "cockpit" should include the driver's seat as well, but then I don't build

See DASH, Page D7

Grand Opening at the "SQUARE!"

Over 30 New '2000 Nissans In Stock! Xterra's • Maximas • Frontiers • Frontier 4-Door Crew Cabs!

A Square Deal Means Everything! Good People + Good Prices = Square Deals!

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TWO OIL
CHANGES: NO
CHARGE

FREE
CAR WASH
& TIRE
ROTATION

FREE
PREFERRED
CUSTOMER
SERVICE
LOANER

10%
LIFETIME
PARTS
DISCOUNT

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SPARE PARTS

Handcrafted in Georgia

Panoz Auto Development of Hoschton, Ga., will offer two hand-built cars for the 2000 model year. Both the A.I.V. Roadster and the Esperante luxury sport convertible will be sold through a growing network of more than 30 Panoz dealers nationwide. Power for the Esperante comes from the eight-cylinder, 320-horsepower SVT Cobra engine developed by Ford. The exclusive Esperante will be priced at about \$80,000. The V8-powered A.I.V. Roadster is priced at \$62,500.

Battery breakthrough

Robert Lutz, chairman of Exide, explains the company's breakthrough with new batteries as "... a battery that can be physically abused, left unused for months, even punctured, and still start your vehicle." Exide's Select Orbital ushers in a new era in automotive battery technology. The Orbital Select features highly efficient construction of tightly wound plates, along with gas recombination technology to eliminate free-liquid battery acid.

Easy clean-up

Castrol is launching a hand cleaner that removes tough automotive dirt and grease without the use of soap, water or towels. The formula in Super Clean bonds to dirt and grease, causing it to flake and fall from your hands. Castrol is an international maker of automotive products.

VW DriversFest

The first-ever DriversFest for Volkswagen owners is scheduled for Aug. 28 in Long Island at the Jones Beach State Park, Wantagh, N.Y. Volkswagen of America, Inc., sponsors of the event, said it will feature fresh live rock bands, hands-on driving events, sporting activities and much more.

VOA said the event is designed to honor VW owners. Bill Rodgers, chairperson for DriversFest '99, said the timing of the event coincides with 50 years of Volkswagen in the U.S.

In 1949, two Dutch importers imported and sold the first two Volkswagen Beetles in the U.S.

For up-to-date information and to register for DriversFest '99, telephone 1-800-434-5280, or visit the Volkswagen Web site at www.vw.com.

Saab 9.5 Aero 'to fly'

The Saab 9.5 Aero, a high-performance addition to the 9.5 model line, will debut at the Frankfurt International Motor Show on Sept. 14, and will go on sale in October.

Featuring a high-output turbocharged 2.3-liter, 4-cylinder engine that deliver 230 horsepower and 252



ABOVE: The A.I.V. Roadster. BELOW: The Saab 9.5 Aero.



ft/lbs of torque, an enhanced sports chassis and improved aerodynamics, the 9.5 Aero builds on the heritage of its predecessor, the 9000 Aero.

The Aero will be available with either a 5-speed manual or 4-speed automatic.

Post Pebble Beach fun

DANVILLE — A post Pebble Beach Concours Open House will be staged by the Blackhawk Museum on Monday, Aug. 30, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Featured during the Open House will be an exhibition of past and present Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance Greats.

Snacks and beverages will be served all day, along with live jazz throughout the galleries. There will be plenty of off-street parking for motor homes and tractor/trailer rigs.

Visitors to the may stop by the huge Blackhawk Exposition tent near

the Lodge from Thursday, Aug. 26, through Sunday, Aug. 29, for further information about the open house.

Hemmings Motor calendars

Hemmings Motor News has expanded its calendar line from four to nine calendars for the year 2000.

The new titles are: Abandoned trucks, Great American Street Rods, Celebrating the New Beetle, Vintage Motorcycles and Ford Model A.

All nine calendars include dates for key events targeted to the calendar theme, plus relevant topical trivia questions and little known facts on each subject.

The calendars are available for \$10.95 each plus shipping and handling from Hemmings Motor News at 1-800-CAR-HERE, ext. 550.

transmission, built by the German manufacturer Getrag. This transmission has improved shift feel and cable shift linkage.

Honda tags-up to title

For the third year, Honda is the official automobile for Little League Baseball. For 1999, Honda is underwriting a "Safety First" baseball video, hosted by former Major Leaguers Steve Garvey and Steve Lyons. The video covers the basics of hitting, catching, throwing, fielding and pitching.

Protection everything

Buick will offer StabiliTrak, one of the world's most advanced vehicle stability control systems, on its

2000 mode year full-line. The StabiliTrak relies on electronic advances to automatically controlling the car's stability under hazardous conditions and during emergency maneuvers.

Toyota develops alternative

Toyota is looking to develop the ultimate eco car in a quest for battery electric and gasoline/electric vehicles. Engineers also are working on a cell electric vehicle that has zero-exhaust emissions.

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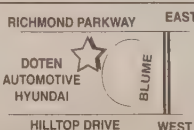
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A shaky ride may not be running on all cylinders

Dear Doctor: I own a 1987 Chevrolet Monte Carlo 4.3-liter V6 with 83,000 miles. I do most of the maintenance myself. I replaced all tune-up parts including cap and rotor and wires, all sensors, and EGR valve. The engine always runs perfectly, however, recently the engine seems to be missing and shaking. It has never stalled out. Can you help with this problem? Vincent

Dear Vincent: A shake or miss is an indication that the engine is running on five cylinders instead of all six. Look for a plug wire that may

have come off or burned against the manifold, or a loose vacuum line. Next, pull the plugs and check for a small piece of carbon between the electrodes. If no problem is found, take it to your local service station.

How good is an '88 Delta?

Dear Doctor: We recently bought a 1991 Oldsmobile Delta 88 with 26,000 miles. The car seems excellent. Is there any service that should be done to preserve the engine and transmission? Does the car have a good repair history? Richard

Dear Richard: The '91 Olds Delta with the 3.8-liter V6 has a great repair history. The only problems I see are water pump, alternator, and ignition coil and module repairs. On the a/c side, evaporator replacement is common. This car should give many years of enjoyment.

K-car idle woes

Dear Doctor: I own a 1987 Plymouth K-car purchased new with the 2.2-liter four-cylinder engine. The car has been reliable over the years. My problem is a high idle speed. There are no trouble codes in the computer.

What can be the problem? I try to do all my own repairs. Allen

Dear Allen: The idle speed is controlled by the computer. The computer relies on inputs from many sensors in the engine. It cannot lower the idle speed if a problem arises, such as unmetered air entering the engine from a vacuum leak from a loose vacuum line or a rotted off EGR valve, which is very common on this model. A stuck idle speed motor, or faulty TPS sensor also will cause high idle speed. A scan tool such as the Mastertech will enable

one to monitor all of the sensors in the fuel management system and lead the technician to the source of the problem.

Those rotten heat shields...

Dear Doctor: I had a replacement exhaust installed on my 1995 Honda Accord with 52,000 miles. After leaving the shop I heard a rattle sound from under the car. The next day I took the car back to the shop. They put it on the lift and found the catalytic converter heat shield rotted, causing the rattle. The technician removed the shield and started to

throw it away. When I protested that the Honda engineers and designers were a lot smarter than either of us and there had to be a reason for the heat shields, he responded, "we throw away heat shields all the time."

The old shells were rusted and distorted and could not be reinstalled. They said the only way to replace the heat shield was a new catalytic converter, and it is very expensive. I am currently driving the car and the rattle is gone. Do I need the heat shields and where can I find them? Harry

See AUTO DOC, Page D7

Air experts say automakers fall short

Brussels, Belgium — A new survey of U.S. environmental leaders and air quality experts conducted by the CALSTART advanced transportation organization has found that no world automaker is yet perceived as the clear leader on environmental issues, despite significant efforts among many companies to stake claim to that title.

The preliminary survey results — which measure a "green index" of how automakers are perceived — also found that building electric vehicles is strongly viewed as demonstrating an automaker's environmental ethic. In addition, several smaller companies — such as Unique Mobility, PIVCO and Solectria — are starting to make a name for themselves by seriously developing and starting to sell electric vehicles and components.

"This survey has got to be eye-opening to automakers who are trying to position themselves as environmental leaders," said Michael J. Gage, president and CEO of Cal-

ifornia-based CALSTART.

"It shows that actions are speaking far louder than words with those people who track automaker actions in the environment: leaders of environmental groups and air quality experts."

The targeted survey, conducted this past summer, posed several questions about how different actions, such as developing and building electric vehicles, were perceived, and which automakers were showing a real commitment to environmental issues. Among its findings to date, the survey found:

■ 85% of those surveyed agreed or strongly agreed that internal combustion engine vehicles are the principal sources of air pollution;

■ 97% agreed or strongly agreed that using electric vehicles would significantly reduce air pollution;

■ 47% agreed or strongly agreed that automakers who build electric vehicles were demonstrating their environmental ethic,

though;

■ 41% had no opinion.

Offering electric vehicles in the market was perceived as the best way to show environmental consciousness, closely followed by investments in research and development and supporting new recharging infrastructure.

On the issue of which automakers were perceived as most environmentally conscious, Ford, Honda, Toyota, General Motors, Volvo and Mercedes-Benz made the list.

When then asked to choose one automaker's position in the industry to use as an example of environmental leadership for other automakers to follow, Honda topped the list of car makers, chosen by 20% of respondents.

However, twice as many respondents said there was either no clear leader (7%) or had no opinion (34%) than voted for Honda. Ford, Toyota and General Motors followed on the list.

— CALSTART

Truck Talk

By Tim Spell

Muscle, six wheels push Dodge Ram

When you're behind the wheel of a '99 Dodge Ram 3500 4x4 diesel-powered Quad Cab dually, it's a given, the truck pegs the macho meter. When nearly 7,000 pounds of metal towering about 6 feet stomps along on six wheels, even its venomous sports-car sibling will steer clear.

Usually, these beasts aren't purchased out of premonition. Its buyers simply have hard work to do.

Serious work trucks generally are powered by diesel engines and the Ram's Cummins is among the most respected. The beauty is that they generate tremendous torque at low rpm, providing brute strength needed to get heavy loads moving.

About midway in the 1998 production year, Dodge replaced its venerable Cummins with a new-generation 24-valve 5.9-liter in-line six turbodiesel. Linked to a five- or six-speed manual transmission, this newcomer cranks out 235 horsepower at 2,700 rpm, but more importantly 460 foot-pounds of stumping torque at 1,600 rpm.

Along with pumping muscle to a point where it can jerk a garage from its foundation, on-tap power has been improved from zero to highway speeds. Merges into freeway traffic and passing can be executed with more confidence.

Credit for the added low-end punch and highway zip goes to four valves per cylinder and a new high-pressure, electronically controlled fuel-injection system.

The test-truck was equipped with a four-speed automatic, which dilutes horsepower by 20 and torque by 40 foot-pounds. Both manual and automatics have the same trailer weight allowance of 9,000 pounds with the 3.4 axle ratio and 11,000 pounds with the 4.10 axle ratio.

If the automatic's power satisfies a consumer's work applications, then it's the way to go. In stop-and-start traffic, shifting the less-than-fluid manual can make you feel a bit Neanderthal.

For the ultimate caveman rush, jam the boom-mounted transfer-case lever from 2WD-high to 4WD-low. There's no sissy twist of a knob for this bad boy. The procedure requires rolling at a 2-3-mph snail's pace with transmission in neutral, then thrusting the lever forward until the 4WD indicator dashboard light signals engagement.

The 3500 Ram doesn't behave too well in civilization. When this boom-box rolls up to a toll booth, the operator closes the window while making change. It's no problem for the driver because cab and hood sound insulation muffles most of the irritating symphony.

Another problem when bringing this country truck into the city is its size. The tall roof presents a challenge in low-clearance garages, its 24.1-inch length makes tight parking spaces a hassle, and narrow lanes rattle the nerves. It's critical that the 6-by-9-inch power outside mirrors are adjusted with rear fenders captured within the frame.

Size also makes a difference when stepping into the cab. For a long, tall cowboy the 24 inches isn't that much of a stretch, but for a short woman in a straight skirt it's Mission Impossible. Of course a set of Mopar Accessories side steps, available through the dealership, can greatly alleviate the problem.

Tim Spell is automotive writer for the Houston Chronicle Cars & Trucks section.

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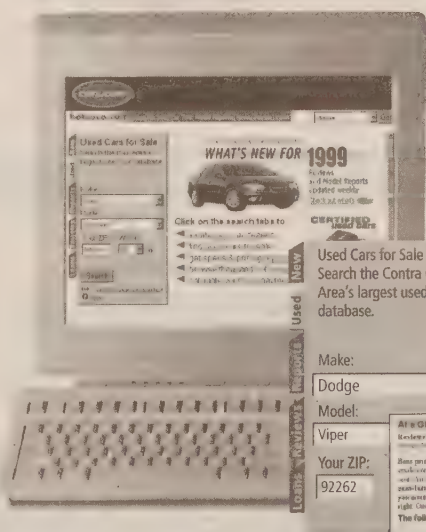
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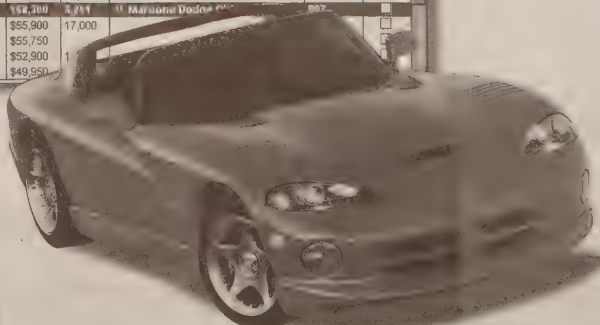
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Contact: Steve Mick, 925-838-7570, smick@verio.com.

Meetings 8 p.m. third Friday of the month (except December) at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, 1601 Mary Drive, Pleasant Hill, CA.

Diablo Four Wheelers

Concord, CA
Contact: Steve Mallo, vice president 925-799-1063

Family four-wheeling since 1964. Primarily Jeeps, but all makes of 4WD accepted. Signatory to the California Association of Four Wheel Drive Clubs (CA4WDC) in Sacramento.

Meetings first Tuesday of every month 7:30 p.m. at Round Table Pizza, Martinez, Pine St. exit off Hwy. 4. Guests are encouraged and welcome.

Diablo Valley Classics

PO Box 21514
Concord, CA 94521
(925) 609-7419

For all 1955-1957 Chevrolet cars, trucks and Corvettes. Meetings are usually the first Friday each month at the Contra Costa Water District building off Concord Ave. Main annual event: Annual Classic Get Together at Concord Blvd. Neighborhood Park (Oct. 3 this year).

Diablo Valley Corvette Club

PO Box 5824

Concord, CA 94524
Hotline: 925-672-8225
President: Jim Neylan (925) 676-0873

Diablo Valley Mustang Association

President: Mike Weldon
Web site: www.jps/dvma
Meetings: Second Wednesday each month at Fuddrucker's, the Willows, Diamond Blvd., Concord. Mustangs of all years.

DKW Club of America

260 Santa Margarita Avenue
Menlo Park, CA 94025
Attn: Byron Brill

Early Ford V-8 Club of America

PO Box 2122
San Leandro, CA 94577
Attn: Dan Wittern

Econoline Organization

15039 Costela Street
San Leandro, CA 94579
Attn: Jay Long

Falcon Club of America, River City Chapter

c/o Mark Milton
610 Kentucky Ave.
Woodland, CA 95695
530-661-3606

Fiero Owners Club of America

Northern California Chapter
2380 Pleasant Hill Rd.
Sebastopol, CA 95472

Ford T5 Owners

PO Box 669
Livermore, CA 94551-0669

Golden Gate Classic Thunderbird Club

Mike or Rita Press
124 Hollyhock Ct.
Hercules, CA 94547
510-799-0556
E-mail: mjprgp@hotmail.com
Meeting/outing: Second Saturday of the month. For those interested in 1955 through 1957 Thunderbirds. Members come from Contra Costa, Alameda, San Francisco, Marin and San Mateo counties.

Golden Gate Lotus Club

PO Box 117303
Burlingame, CA 94011

Green Flag Driving Association

342 Laurelwood Road
Santa Clara, CA 95054

Hispano-Suiza Society

175 St. Germain Avenue

San Francisco, CA 94114

Attn: John deBoer

Iso & Bizzarini Owners Club

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Oakland, CA 94611

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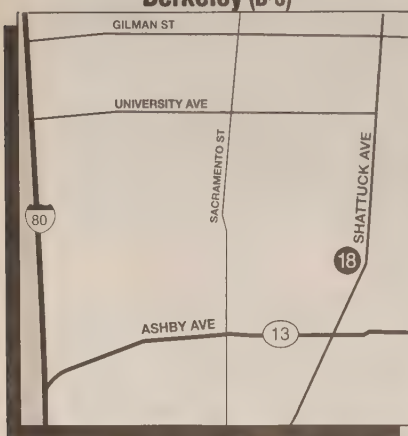
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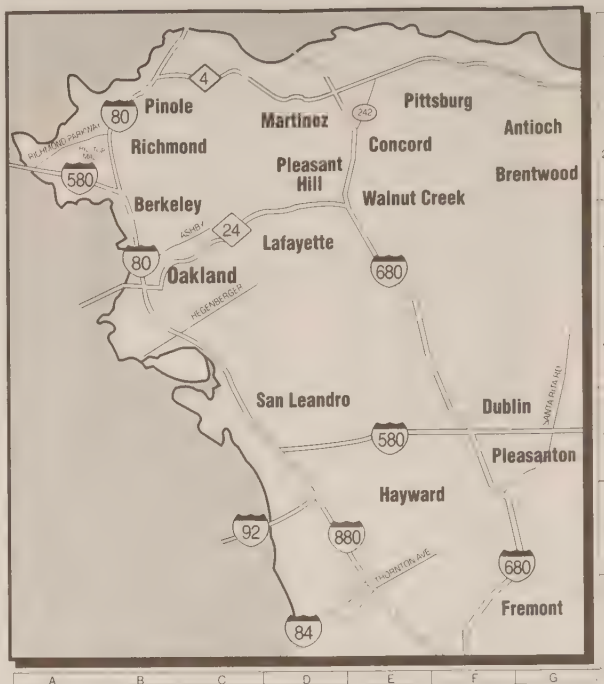
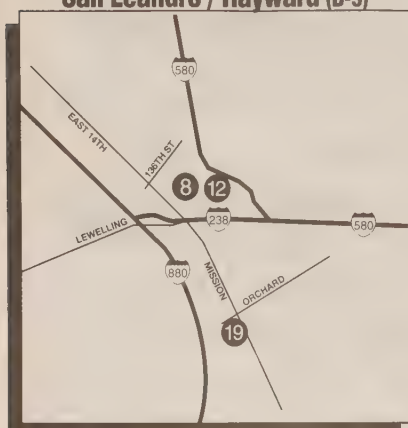
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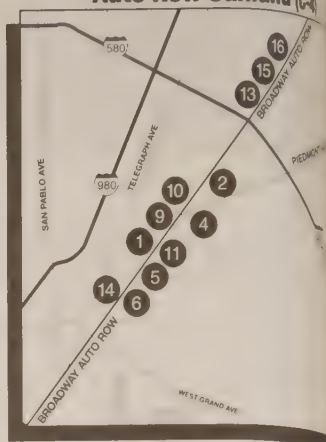
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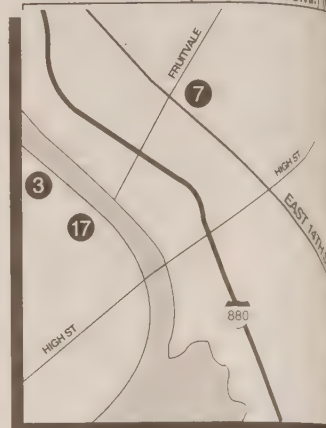
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Dash

FROM PAGE D1

the things, I merely drive them.

Anyway, the dash/IP/cockpit (take your pick), is a highly complex and critical part of a vehicle. Consider, it is the part of a car that the driver sees and deals with far more than any other part. If a driver finds something annoying about the IP, the entire driving experience can be soured.

The IP houses the radio/cassette/CD stuff, plus the controls for heating, ventilation and air conditioning, also referred to in the auto biz as HVAC. Hey, don't forget cupholders, or power take-offs (more known as cigarette lighters.) In more and more cars the IP features navigation systems, too. Just imagine the bird's nests of wires beneath that soft-touch covering, not to mention a maze of ducting and many mini motors.

The IP is of critical importance to a vehicle's safety system as well, mounted as it is on an important cross-car structural beam and housing dual airbags, also known as SR (Secondary Restraint System). I can ABC with the best of them.

The IP is clearly mission control, and it can be an incredible source of annoyance. Have you ever been driven to pound on the dash because of some bird-like squeak emanating from somewhere in its innards? Have you ever ground your teeth over some saddle-leather sort of rubbing noise? Well, there's an industry acronym for all that, called BSR (buzz, squeak and rattle). "Itching," they call that inter-surface rubbing that apparently cannot be got at to scratch.

Anyway, the point of all this is to lay the groundwork for this bit of information — the IP is undergoing a revolution that foreshadows the way cars will be built before the millennium is old enough for kindergarten. The watchword is "modular."

IP's are at the forefront of the move toward modular construction. Eventually, cars will not grow into wholeness as individual parts are attached while the vehicle-to-be moves down an assembly line.

Rather, they will be assembled from larger modules that suppliers

have built and delivered, ready for installation. Not unlike a snap-together model for the sub-school set.

According to Automotive Industries, future cars will be composed of a number of modules, maybe a dozen or six or four. A supplier might make the entire interior module that would then be dropped through a hole in the roof, connected, and the roof glued back in place.

The new IP is a forerunner of such modularization, a trend started by European carmakers and growing in the U.S. With all the ductwork and wiring designed at one time, space is rationalized. Thus air conditioning ducts can be larger and quieter.

Integrated into the modular IP is a structural function. It adds rigidity to the vehicle and improves handling and safety. Competing for space in the new IP modules will be even more electronics. Navigation systems are becoming more common and integrated systems will offer plug-in possibilities for everything from cell phones, laptops, faxes, e-mail, GPS (global positioning systems), video rearview mirrors (for safe backing) and a whole lot of voice-activated gadgetry to be invented by Anakin Skywalker.

As a computer savvy generation moves into its car-buying years, its ease with electronics can translate into a demand for more electronic gear in their vehicles. Fortunately, since computer gadgetry grows obsolete faster than cars, the new integrated IPs will allow for upgrading.

As for me, my demands are simple. I want a dash/IP/cockpit with an odometer I can read whether in a tunnel or direct sunlight. I like a fan quieter than an SST take-off, the radio controls above those for the heater and I don't want to be misdirected by some disembodied live voice (so an in-dash nav system, please.)

And of course, any IP must keep the mud off my duster.

Saturn

FROM PAGE D1

for about 24 percent of sales. The Saturn S-Series competes in the small and sport segments, which comprise another 17 percent of the market.

Saturn has one major advantage over its competitors and that is its dealer body. You won't get any arguments that Saturn dealerships are tops. Its one-price strategy has a proven track record. Ask a Saturn owner about his car and he or she will start with praise for the dealer.

Its owner body is extremely loyal. Forty percent of the owners return to Saturn for their next purchase. It is expected that a large segment of present owners who now have need for a larger car will return to look and buy the new mid-size models.

"The L-Series also provides a natural step-up for our two million current Saturn owners, while giving Saturn retailers the opportunity to attract and satisfy a broader range of customers," said Cynthia Trudell, chairman and president of the General Motors subsidiary.

Three versions of the sedan will be offered and two station wagon models will be offered.

Standard on the base LS/LS1 sedan and LW wagon is an all-new, Saturn-exclusive 2.2-liter dual overhead cam four-cylinder engine that provides 137 horsepower at 5800 rpm. A 3.0-liter dual overhead cam V-6 engine, which is available on the LS2 and LW2, puts out 182 horsepower at 6000 rpm.

A five-speed manual transmission is standard with the LS/LS1. All engines are available with a four-speed electronically controlled automatic transmission.

Styling of the sedan and wagon offers a lot of touches to remind would-be buyers that they are Saturns. Like most mid-size cars the new models don't stand out in a crowd.

Bland is beautiful in this market segment, but the new Saturn mid-size models retain many of the distinctive features the brand is known for, including Saturn's signature headlamp and tail lamp designs and the exclusive polymer body-side panels, which resist dents and dings.

We thought the wagon was a good-looking vehicle. Saturn expects to see about 20 percent of sales will be to wagon buyers — we expect they are underestimating the market. It should attract plenty of folks who once shunned station wagons.

Autodoc

FROM PAGE D3

Dear Harry: I see a lot of rotted heat shields in Boston, as does any shop that services cars in the snow belt. I stock a lot of large metal band clamps similar to radiator hose clamps that we use to hold in place rusted, rattling heat shields. These band clamps are available from any hardware store. Walker Exhaust Company sells universal heat shields.

I never would recommend the removal of a heat shield from any part of the exhaust system. The purposes of heat shields are as follows: to keep the exhaust heat in the system which is more efficient for catalytic operation and exhaust life, to keep the heat in the system and away from the floor boards, fuel and brake lines, and to

help prevent fires from leaves debris under a parked vehicle left idling.

How can I get better mpg?

Dear Doctor: I purchased a new 1999 Dodge Caravan with the 2.4-liter four-cylinder engine. It has 3,000 miles on it. I have never gotten more than 16 miles per gallon. The majority of my driving is city stop-and-go. I purchased the four-cylinder because I thought I would get at least 20 mpg. What should I do? Nick

Dear Nick: EPA estimates on your Caravan are 20 mpg city and 26 highway. The engine is still wearing in and mileage will get better when the odometer reaches 8,000 miles. However it is not going to increase 4 mpg. During hot weather, stop-and-go driving with the a/c on makes gas consumption much higher. Before going back to the dealer, fill the van up, set

the trip odometer or write down the mileage. Get on the thruway and take a trip of at least 80 miles. Next go back to the same gas station and same gas pump, fill the tank the same way. Write down the new mileage, and subtract from the old. Now divide by the number of gallons of gas used for miles traveled. I think you will be surprised at the amount of mpg you actually get.

If still unhappy, take a trip to the dealer and they will be able to test the fuel management system. If, in fact, the engine was burning a lot of fuel, the service or check engine light would come on and a trouble code indicating a rich condition would be present.

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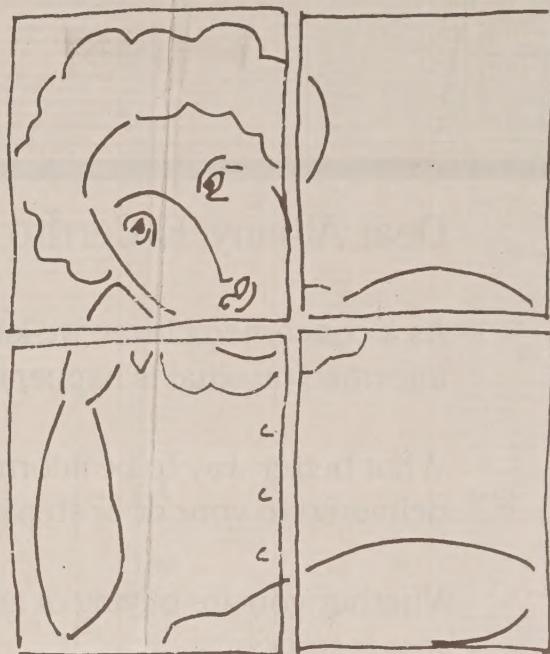
Notice is hereby given that the Albany Unified School District Board of Education will conduct a public hearing during their regularly scheduled Board Meeting on July 27, 1999, to discuss and receive comment on the Board's intent to permanently maintain developer fees at the maximum limit. Current maximum fees are \$1.93 per square foot for residential development and \$3.31 per square foot for commercial/Industrial development, as approved by the Board on June 9, 1999. It is the Board's intent to continue to charge the maximum developer fees beyond the time limit indicated in Urgency Resolution 99-40. Documentation for public inspection will be available in the Administrative office, 904 Talbot Ave., Albany on July 16, 1999. The regular Board meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Board School District Board Room, 901 Cornell Avenue, Albany to be immediately followed by the public hearing at 7:15 p.m.

The Journal July 15, 22, 1999.

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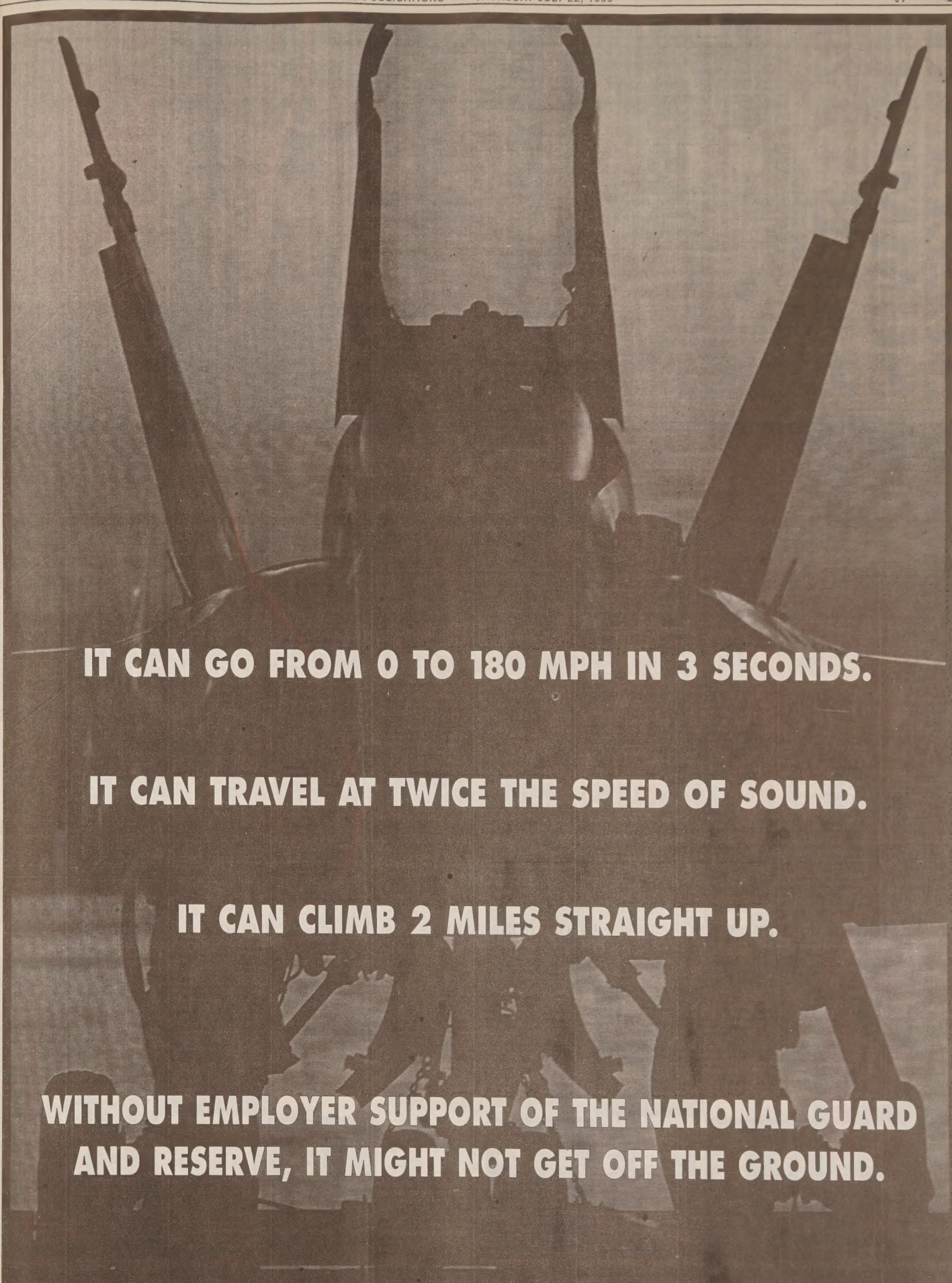
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